



ESTABLISHED 1859.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICE:

NORMANBY CHAMBERS, MELBOURNE.

Published every Saturday.

Subscription 10s. per year, payable in advance:
commencing from any date.

Post free to every country in the world. Single copies, 4d. each.

Supplied only to persons connected with the Trade.

For Australasian subscribers the subsidiary journal THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OF AUSTRALASIA is included.

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DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

Secretaries of societies are requested to send early information of approaching meetings.

Monday, November 7.

Society of Chemical Industry, Burlington House, at 8 P.M.—Paper by Mr. C. T. Kingzett, F.I.C., F.C.S.:—"Note on the Comparative Antiseptic Action of Chlorides, Nitrates, and Sulphates." The discussion on Mr. John Ruffle's paper in July number of journal (1887), on "The Correct Analysis of Superphosphates, Plain and Ammoniated."

Royal Institution—General monthly meeting, 5 P.M.

Wednesday, November 9.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, 8 Fitzalan Square, at 8.30 P.M.—Mr. J. H. Worrall, F.C.S., on "The Periodic Law applied to the study of Chemistry."

Royal Microscopical Society, King's College, W.C., at 8 o'clock.—"Synopsis of the British recent Foraminifera," by Mr. H. B. Brady, F.R.S.; "Metamorphoses of Amœbe and Actinophrys," by Mr. C. R. Beaumont.

Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 8.—Mr. F. Ransom on "The Alkaloidal Value of Ipecacuanha Cultivated in India"; and Dr. J. C. Thresh on "Trebizonde Honey."

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.—Open meeting in the Pharmaceutical Society's house, at 9.15 P.M. Papers, &c.

Thursday, November 10.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 9.—Mr. A. W. Gerrard, F.C.S., on "Emulsions."

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1888 is now completed, and the first edition for Australasian circulation is in the hands of the binder, and will be shipped to our Melbourne office by the Orient steamer the *Oroya*, which leaves London on November 10. Australasian subscribers wishing to have extra copies should write at once to the office of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, Normanby Chambers, Melbourne, remitting 2s. 6d. for every extra copy required. Every actual subscriber there will be entitled to one copy free. The price to non-subscribers is 3s. 6d.

Suggestions.

(We invite contributions to this column.)

EIGHTY PARTS of iodoform, 15 parts of oil of cinnamon, and 5 parts of finely powdered coffee, packed into the fowl root of a tooth, disinfests it, and is a very agreeable dressing.

THE proprietary nostrums for the preservation of milk and the like are, says the *British Medical Journal*, essentially compounds of boric or salicylic acids, though bicarbonate of soda is also used [in combination with them, we may add].

CASEIN CEMENT for paper, cloth, and leather is made by dissolving 25 grains of borax in 1 oz. of water and adding sufficient casein to make a mass of the consistence of honey. Skim-milk cheese dried and powdered does well for casein.

AN OIL is prepared in Italy from grape seeds, which are carefully separated from the dried pulp which comes from the wine-press. They are first ground to a fine meal, which is then made into a kind of porridge. This yields the oil on pressure.

ONE of the simplest barometers is a spider's web. The filaments from which the web is suspended are shortened when rain or wind approaches, and are lengthened when the weather is to be fine. If the spider keeps at work during rain, that is a sign that fine weather is not far off.

TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT. of tartaric acid, a heated mortar, and a drop of water for every 100 grains of the mixture of tartaric acid and quinine are the means whereby Mr. C. S. Erb produces "a splendid mass" of quinine sulphate. This is a new way of putting an old suggestion.

DR. J. E. STEWART, of Wilmington, Del., in a paper read before the International Medical Congress suggested that the medical and pharmaceutical professions should unite in one association, which should, under Government auspices, make a systematic examination of the materia medica of the world.

To remove nigrosin ink stains from white goods a correspondent of the *Western Druggist* advises to first apply a thick paste of chlorinated lime and water to the ink spots. Second, when all the spots have been treated in this way pour strong vinegar on and rub well in. Rinse with clear water, and if necessary repeat the whole procedure.

A REPORT by an American pharmacist shows that many samples of granulated sugar of American manufacture are heavily faced with ultramarine, thus rendering them practically unfit for pharmaceutical purposes. Syrup made from such sugars generally gives a perceptible blue deposit, and the colouring gives rise in acid syrups to an odour of sulphuretted hydrogen.

CASSIA POWDER is one of the worst powders to roll pills in. When the pills are swallowed, it frequently happens that the powder, by insufflation, gets on the tonsils and causes intolerable irritation. A mixture of starch 1 part and French chalk 3 parts, plain or flavoured with vanillin is excellent.

MRS. RICHARDS, an American lady chemist, has examined the flowers of *Eriogonum ovalifolium*, a plant which grows in silver-ore localities. Some of the flowers are pink, some yellow; in the former she discovered arsenium, in the latter, none. Can plants, like ladies, have discovered that arsenic induces a roseate hue in their most attractive features?

Metropolitan Reports.

THE SHOP HOURS REGULATION ACT.—At the Lambeth Police Court, last week, a hair-dresser was charged with employing a youth under eighteen years of age 98 hours in one week, 74 hours being the statutory limit, and was bound over in 10*l.* not to repeat the offence.

THE RENO CASE.—This case was resumed at the Mansion House on Tuesday before Alderman Sir Robert Carden. Frederick William Barnes, a clerk, living at Leighton, was called, and he spoke to seeing the defendant in answer to an advertisement. The defendant represented that they were about to convert the company into a limited concern, and that they would require the services of a secretary, but one would be preferred who could take an interest by subscribing for shares in the syndicate to promote the company. The witness agreed to take an interest to the extent of 30*l.*, and he deposited 5*l.* on account. The defendant said he would stand a better chance than any of the other candidates, as he had been in a company's service before. Subsequently the witness was informed that he had been actually appointed secretary, at a salary of 3*l.* a week, and the defendant requested him to pay up the balance (25*l.*), but, as he failed to obtain any adequate information as to the position of the company and the names of the directors, he ultimately declined to have anything to do with the matter, and demanded back his deposit. The latter not being forthcoming he issued a plaint in the City of London Court. The witness was asked by the defendant why he did not carry out his part of the agreement. Sir R. Carden said the witness naturally had misgivings in the matter, and he (Sir Robert) wished all the other "secretaries" had had the same, for in that case they would not have lost their money, and defendant would not have been in that position. This concluded the case for the prosecution, and defendant was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

ANALYSTS' REPORTS.—Mr. C. E. Cassal, the analyst for the parishes of St. George, Hanover Square, W., and of Kensington, has submitted his reports to the respective vestries. Pepper gets the largest share of attention in both reports. In St. George's he had examined twelve samples, four only of which were genuine, and five adulterated. Four of the latter were black pepper, and contained from 8.59 to 11.62 per cent. of mineral matter, whereas, Mr. Cassal remarks, "the total amount of mineral matter present in genuine commercial 'black' pepper does not exceed 5 to 5.5 per cent., and any pepper yielding more than 7 per cent., which is taken as the extreme limit, must be considered as adulterated within the meaning of the Act." In Kensington, out of seventeen samples of black pepper examined, only four were pure, and nine were adulterated, the mineral constituents in this case ranging from 8.09 to 15.09 per cent. Mr. Cassal, speaking of the source of this flagrant adulteration, points out that it is due to gross carelessness, or to actual admixture with "sweepings" or similar matters. One sample of "potted cream" obtained in Kensington "contained boracic acid, probably added as 'borax,' or borate of soda, in the form of a 'milk preservative,' the amount present being so large that it could be distinctly tasted." The use of milk preservatives is specially referred to at the conclusion of the report. In this, boracic acid is the substance which comes in for remark. The whole subject was gone into by Dr. Dudfield and Mr. Cassal some time ago. The conclusion which they arrived at was that, though the injurious action of very small doses of borax or boracic acid, even in the case of infants, and even having regard to the doses being continuous, may perhaps be considered as "not proven," it will probably become a question whether the use of any known preservative should not be prohibited.

THE DOCTOR AND THE CHEMIST.—Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an inquiry last Saturday concerning the death of Charlotte Williams, aged seven weeks. On the Sunday previous the mother of the deceased took her child, who was ill, to 96 Ball's Pond Road, where she saw a Mr. Foster, whom she believed to be a duly-qualified medical practitioner. He prescribed for the child, and said he would continue to treat it for 3*s.* weekly. He told her that if the

deceased became worse she was to send for him. Mr. Foster deposed he was a chemist and druggist, and had during the last six months sold his business to Dr. Beale, of Graham Road, Hackney. In the absence of the doctor on Sunday he prescribed for the child. His name was still retained over the fascia of the shop, but there was a plate displayed intimating that Dr. Beale attended the shop daily. He informed the mother of the child that it was suffering severely from bronchitis, and should not have been brought out, and that if it was worse Dr. Beale would call and see it on Monday. Dr. Beale explained that he lived a mile distant from Ball's Pond Road, but attended there twice daily, and instructed Mr. Foster, who was his assistant, to call him to all serious cases. The child had died from bronchitis and natural causes, and he had arrived too late to attend to it. A juror thought poor people were apt to be misled by this dual system of doctoring, and the coroner remarked that he found at the East-end a doctor would have half-a-dozen chemists' shops in different parts, at which his name was prominently displayed, but the work was really done by unqualified assistants, provided with death certificates signed and partially filled in, in advance. It would be advisable, to prevent future misapprehension, that now the business in Ball's Pond Road belonged to Dr. Beale, his name alone should appear. Clearly the law prohibited unqualified assistants to practise medicine. Mr. Foster said for four years before he disposed of his business he practised merely as a chemist and druggist. A Juror: Do you now get a weekly salary? Witness: Yes. The Juror: Will you swear that? Witness: I get a commission. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with Dr. Beale's evidence.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. H. G. STACEY.—Upon the return from Paris, on Monday, October 31, of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Stacey, whose marriage we announced recently a pleasant surprise awaited the newly-married couple in the shape of a magnificent wedding present from the staff of the firm of Corbyn, Stacey & Co. Nearly one hundred of the firm's employes had contributed to purchase a splendid pair of massive bronze vases and two marble forum tazzas, which were sent to Mr. and Mrs. Stacey, accompanied by a complimentary letter begging their acceptance of the gift. The vases are of French manufacture, made of real bronze, very antique, and measure over two feet in height. They are richly ornamented with representations of Neptune and Venus, executed in the style of Rubens, and with images of Bacchus and other ancient deities. The forum tazzas are about twenty-four inches in height, executed in black marble set off with gold, and bearing the representation of a figure with a lyre under a dome of Roman design. The collection of the subscriptions and the purchase of the presents were entirely managed by the staff of the firm unknown to the principals, and bears excellent witness to the popularity which Mr. Stacey enjoys among all sections of his firm's employes.

FIREWORK EXPLOSION.—On Sunday afternoon a serious firework explosion occurred in Lambeth, whereby three persons were seriously injured. Two lads, Henry Hayes, aged eleven, and Edward Ford, aged twelve, purchased a firework called a "maroon," which is a bomb consisting of a small ball of string covered with a red composition. It is loaded with gunpowder, and there is also a fuse attached. On the outside there is a printed label stating that the fuse is not to be ignited within 5 feet of any person. The lads repaired to Montford Place, Upper Kennington Lane, to let off their maroon. A man named Thomas Wilson was passing, and the lads, being without a match, asked him for one. Not having one in his possession, and thinking the maroon was a wax taper coil, he attempted to light it by means of the pipe which he was smoking, when an explosion occurred which knocked Wilson and the two boys flat on to the ground. The police arrived, and, finding that Wilson and the two lads were seriously injured, conveyed them to St. Thomas's Hospital, where they were examined by one of the house-surgeons. They were cut and burnt about their faces, and their eyebrows and hair were also burnt off. Their injuries having been attended to they were allowed to go home.

THE LONDON COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—A well attended meeting in furtherance of this society was held on Saturday afternoon in the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor,

president, presided, and he was supported by a large number of influential citizens and heads of establishments. Resolutions were proposed by Sir H. Peek, Bart., Messrs. Hawkins, W. de G. Warren, J.P., and others, that the scope of the society should be widened and the number of members increased. These resolutions were unanimously carried, and in support of the object a considerable sum of money was there and then promised for the reserve fund. When the Lord Mayor rose to acknowledge a vote of thanks the whole company sprang to their feet, cheering and waving hats, handkerchiefs, and hands most enthusiastically. The meeting then terminated. Among the firms represented were some well known in the pharmaceutical world: Messrs. Barron, Squire & Co., S. Maw, Son & Thompson, Meggeson & Co., Boord & Son, Bowerbank & Co.

Provincial Reports.

BIRMINGHAM.

DO-LITTLE TREATMENT.—At an inquest on the body of a child of two years, held by Mr. Hawkes, coroner, on October 27, the mother of the child stated that it had had measles. She had treated deceased with saffron tea. Dr. Drummond deposed that the immediate cause of death was pneumonia, consequent on an attack of measles. He said that saffron tea was not the slightest good, but at the same time did no harm. Mr. Hawkes: Neither does pump-water.

MIDLAND COUNTIES CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—The first monthly meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, on Thursday evening, when the President, Mr. Geo. E. Perry, delivered the inaugural address. There was a very good attendance of members. The address was comprehensive, and dealt with the position of pharmacy and the conditions affecting its future. In particular he instanced the value of local associations, especially at the present juncture, saying at no time in the history of pharmacy was the necessity for a closer union more forced upon pharmacists than the present. He spoke of the attack made on pharmacy both from within its own ranks and from the outside, saying that, as far as co-operative bodies were concerned, it was nothing short of a public scandal that the present anomalous condition of things was allowed to continue. Another point on which he touched was the dispensing of medicines by medical men, which custom he showed at the present time was no longer necessary, and that a transfer to the hands of the pharmacist would be to the interests of medicine, pharmacy, and public alike. He said he did not hold a brief from the Pharmaceutical Society, but it was clearly to that body we must look to obtain legislation in the future. Everything, he said, pointed to a separation of the more or less professional side of pharmacy from the commercial; he then went on to speak of the benefits which would be conferred on pharmacy by such a proposal as was made by the Pharmaceutical Council for the enforcement of the curriculum. He approved of the establishment of a research laboratory, and said, in conclusion, that he believed a better and more secure position awaited the pharmacist, and the status which he ought to occupy in the community depended on a personal qualification rather than a legal one. Mr. Barclay proposed a vote of thanks, and in doing so said that the reason why in his opinion the Pharmaceutical Society does not receive universal support was that it had not deserved it in the past. He felt that the supineness which had affected the trade association extended to other bodies, and that the chaotic state of pharmacy was due to this. He granted that doctors were entitled to dispense, but he thought in time things would right themselves. Referring to the Pharmaceutical Society, he said that the large expenditure now going on at the Society's rooms should be watched, as also the progress of the curriculum scheme, although at present the latter was innocent enough. The way to remedy all this was by the influence which could be applied by papers and discussions thereon, by the reading of addresses, and the writing of editorials stating clearly our views of the matter. Mr. Arblaster seconded the vote of thanks, and thought, as to the dispensing of medicines, that an arrangement would possibly be made before long with medical men in this matter. Mr. Mayor also spoke. The meeting then resolved

itself into a conversazione, the President acting very efficiently as accompanist to the several members who contributed songs. The meeting augured well for the current session, for which the secretaries have arranged an excellent syllabus.

GLOUCESTER.

A CHEMIST SELLING WINE.—At the Berkeley Police Court on Wednesday, Albert A. Curtis, chemist and druggist, of Gloucester and Sharpness, was summoned for selling two bottles of ginger wine, at his shop at Sharpness, on August 9, without having in force a licence for the sale of the same. Defendant did not appear. Edward Harris Selway, an Excise officer, deposed that on August 9 last he called at the Sharpness shop and purchased two bottles of "ginger wine." He produced one of the bottles; the other was forwarded to Somerset House. Defendant had neither a magistrate's certificate nor an Excise licence. Witness bought it from the defendant's assistant in the shop, and sealed the bottles. The chairman said defendant had been previously convicted for selling spirits without a licence, and he would now be fined 15*l.* and costs.

HANLEY.

UNTRUSTWORTHY MILK ANALYSIS.—At the Borough Police Court, on October 20 and 29, two cases under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act were heard, in which Matthew Udall was charged with selling milk which the analyst certified to be adulterated with 5 per cent. water, and John Wood for selling milk containing 6 per cent. of added water. Witnesses stated that the samples were as they came from the cows, and the solicitors for the defence submitted that there were grave doubts as to the correctness of the analyst's results, and that the reserve samples should be sent to Somerset House. The magistrates agreed to adjourn the case until October 29, when the Somerset House certificates were submitted. With respect to Udall's sample it was stated that the Government analysts were of opinion that less than 3 per cent. of water had been added. In the case of Wood's sample the opinion expressed was that water had not been added to the milk at all. The prosecution now stated that they had got independent analysis which corroborated Mr. Baines's results, and asked that Wood's case should be adjourned so that Mr. Baines might be examined. This the magistrates agreed to, but Udall was dismissed on payment of the costs of the analysis—viz., 11*s.* 6*d.*

HULL.

A CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT WHO BEATS HIS WIFE.—At the Hedon Police Court last week, John Stovin Woodruffe, of Sutton, described as a chemist's assistant, and formerly of Queen Street, Hull, was charged by his wife, Mary Jane Woodruffe, with committing an aggravated assault on her on the evening of August 18. From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner from a month after marriage, and for a period of five years, had ill-treated his wife. He was found guilty, and the magistrates inflicted a fine of 1*l.* and costs, or in default one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and also made an order for judicial separation, with maintenance for the wife, the custody of the children being given to her.

JARROW.

THE POISONED WEDDING-CAKE.—Mr. Stock, the county analyst, has reported that the icing on one of the cakes referred to recently contained 22 per cent. of arsenic. The baking-powder, lump-sugar, and castor sugar obtained by the maker of the cake contained no traces of poison, nor did a second cake made by the bride's sister-in-law. The police are continuing their investigations.

KINETON.

DR. MACVICAR RESIGNS.—At the Banbury Board of Guardians on October 28, a letter was read from Dr. MacVicar, of Shenington, near Banbury, in which he resigned his office as medical officer for the Hornton district. Dr. MacVicar had only held the position for a few weeks when the unfortunate affair in regard to Dr. Hutchinson, of Kineton, occurred. Several of the members of the Board expressed their sympathy with the doctor, and considered that he had

been very hardly treated. It was agreed to advertise for a successor.

LEEDS.

HERB BEER.—At Blackburn on October 28, William Boardman, a confectioner, was summoned by the Inland Revenue Department for selling herb beer without an excise licence. The mixture retailed by the defendant contained over 5 per cent of proof spirit, 2 per cent. being the limit allowed by the department to go duty free. Boardman, who pleaded that the composition was made from herbs, was fined 20s. and costs.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—The practical chemistry class of this association commenced its work in the laboratory of the Technical School on October 26. Mr. S. F. Burford, F.C.S., is the teacher of the class, and before the students commenced their work he asked Mr. Poyser, B.A., and Mr. Tairily to say a few words. The former gentleman advised the students as to the course they should adopt to make their studies successful, especially emphasising regular and punctual attendance, careful observation, and copious note-taking.

LINCOLN.

AN UNKNOWN POISON.—Dr. Wilkinson, the county coroner, held an inquest at the village of Metheringham last week regarding the death of Eleanor Brownfield, thirty-six, a house-keeper. From the evidence of Dr. Maitland Thompson death had resulted from exhaustion brought about by the frequent occurrence of spasms caused by poison. He was called to her, but when he arrived he found her dead. Further evidence was given which showed that deceased had taken the poison wilfully, but no evidence as to the nature of the poison was given, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

LIVERPOOL.

FIRE.—A fire occurred in the chlorate-mill of Messrs. A. G. Kurtz & Co.'s alkali-works, St. Helens, on October 28, but the workmen succeeding in subduing it before it spread much; 507. will cover the damage done.

MR. E. DAVIES discoursed on fluosilicate of sodium as a disinfectant before the Liverpool Chemists' Association on the 27th ult. This is the substance which under the name of "Salufer" has been introduced into commerce by Mr. Wm. Thomson, of Manchester. We gave some account of it in our report of the British Association meeting.

LAUDANUM THE SOOTHER.—At the Bootle Police Court on Monday, Theodore Rogers, tobacconist, who had held a position as a clerk in a store in Jamaica, was charged with attempting to commit suicide with laudanum. Dr. McNeil, of 80 Park Road, Bootle, stated that he was called to prisoner at four o'clock on Saturday morning, and found him suffering from the effects of taking opium poison. With the aid of the usual remedies prisoner recovered, and was given in charge of the police. Prisoner was discharged with a warning.

STEALING AMBULANCE STORES.—On Monday morning, at the County Magistrates' Court, George Balshaw was charged with having stolen a small bottle of chloroform and a package of lint, value 5s., the property of the executive of the Liverpool Jubilee Exhibition. While carrying a package into the ambulance section of the Exhibition he was seen to open the package and take the goods named from it. No one present give definite information as to the properties of the drug, but an exhibition attendant thought it was something "that put you to sleep." For the defence it was stated that the prisoner was the worse for drink at the time, and that while in that state he was habitually more like a lunatic than a sane man. The property, it was added, could have been of no possible use to him. Considering this and other circumstances, the magistrates let the prisoner off with a fine of 5s. and costs.

MAIDSTONE.

THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—At the Kent General Sessions on Saturday last, it was reported that during the past quarter 139 samples of food had been analysed by the Public Analyst (Dr. M. A. Adams) at a total expense of 78*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* Thirteen persons were proceeded against, but only ten were convicted, the fines amounting to 16*l.* 6*s.* The committee recommended the court to request the justices of the respective divisions in future to cause the county analyst to be informed of all cases relating to food and drugs which might be adjourned for the purpose of the article being analysed at Somerset House. It was also reported that a conference of justices had been considering the question of securing greater uniformity in the administration of the Acts relating to weights and measures and the adulteration of food and drugs. This conference recommended that where fraudulent intention was proved, or might clearly be inferred, severe penalties should be inflicted, it being desirable to consider the adulteration of articles of food as an offence of special gravity, and care should be taken that inspectors carry out their duties. With respect to these observations of the conference Lord Brabourne wrote that the propositions would be of comparatively little practical utility, and was inclined to agree upon a minimum penalty in adulteration cases being adopted.

MANCHESTER.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.—A meeting of the local section was held on Tuesday evening under the presidency of Mr. S. Mellor, who delivered an address, after which two papers were read, one of them by Mr. Watson Smith, on the new antiseptic, *alpha-oxynaphthoic acid*, which is analogous to salicylic acid—in fact, it might be termed the salicylic acid of the naphthalene series. This analogy was well shown in the respective methods of preparation. For salicylic acid, phenol was converted into sodium phenate, and when carbonic acid was passed over this sodium salicylate was formed. When this salt was treated with a mineral acid, salicylic acid was precipitated. In like manner, if *alpha-naphthol* be substituted for carbolic acid, and the same process otherwise be proceeded with, the final product was *alpha-oxynaphthoic acid*. Dr. von Heyden, of Radebeul, near Dresden, had sent him a specimen of the new antiseptic. It consisted of a crystalline powder, free from odour, becoming electrical on friction, and melting with decomposition at 186° C. It had a pungent taste, was sparingly soluble in water. Boiling water only dissolved 0.75 gramme per litre. The alkaline and earthy salts were all soluble in water. Experiments had shown that as regards the effect of solutions, tried side by side with salicylic acid of the same strength, or solutions of sugar and yeast, the influence of *alpha-oxynaphthoic acid* as regarded antiseptic power was more than five times stronger than that of salicylic acid. It had, moreover, been found that the new acid antiseptic was especially powerful in killing certain bacteria and some low forms of parasitic life. It was proposed as useful in disinfecting waste liquors on the large scale, and might also be useful in application to cotton cloth in sizing to prevent the growth of mildew. Experiments were now being made as to the effect on the cholera bacillus. As regarded its detection and identification, that would be easy, as on heating with lime *alpha-naphthol* was formed, just as phenol was formed on heating salicylic acid with lime.

THE CORNBROOK EXPLOSION.—Col. Majendie's report on the fire and explosion which occurred at Messrs. Roberts, Dale & Co.'s chemical works, Cornbrook, in June last, has been issued. The facts have already been fully recorded in this journal. Col. Majendie had to account for three distinct events: (1) the fire, (2) the first explosion, and (3) the second and more serious explosion. He is of the decided opinion that the fire was originated by the workman Heye, either in lighting, smoking, or "knocking out" his pipe. The evidence regarding the first explosion is not sufficiently clear to admit any definite conclusion further than that it took place at or in the picric acid stove and was due to the fire. In accounting for the second explosion, Col. Majendie enters into a consideration of the chemical aspects. The articles which had been manufactured at the works during the year previous were picric acid, nitrate of lead, nitric acid,

hydrochloric acid (by-products, nitre cake and salt cake), chloride of tin (tin crystals), tin solutions, nitrate of iron, nitrate of copper, aurine, Manchester brown (triamidoazobenzol chloride), Manchester yellow (dinitro-naphthol), lake for paper stainers, and emerald green. From one or other of these chemicals the explosion must have originated, and picric acid is the one upon which the gravest suspicion rests. For this reason an exhaustive and interesting statement of the chemical properties and explosive character of the acid is given. The conclusion which has been arrived at is that the explosion was due to the detonation of a quantity of picric acid and self-formed picrate of lead (or other detonative compounds), and that this detonation effected the simultaneous detonation of the picric acid in the crystallising vessel, the whole being a result of the fire originated by Heye. The existence of lead compounds near the picric acid directly influenced the explosion, and Col. Majendie practically censures the firm for want of care in carrying on the manufacture of picric acid under such conditions.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE NEW COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.—On Thursday the foundation stone of the new University of Durham College of Medicine was laid. The site upon which the edifice is to be constructed is situate close to the Bath Road, Northumberland Street, and comprises one acre of land, originally part of the Magdalene Hospital Estate. The general plan is for a quadrangular pile of buildings, with the principal facade, and a central tower, fronting Bath Road, the whole covering the greater part of the acre of ground which is alone available. The class accommodation for the various subjects will be of the most complete character. A feature of the principal block will be the spacious oak-built staircase by which access to the upper floor will be gained. Here the examination hall will be an apartment of 80 feet long by 35 feet in breadth, and the museum will be 60 feet by 35 feet.

NORWICH.

POISONING WITH DATURA TATULA.—Last Saturday morning three persons presented themselves at the shop of Messrs. J. Robinson & Co., chemists, Oxford Hill, suffering evidently from the effects of narcotic poison. The sufferers, a Mr. and Mrs. Brighty and nephew, stated that by some mistake the contents of a small tin, containing datura tatula, which had formerly been used by a relative for bronchial asthma, was used in the tea for breakfast. It was noticed at the time that the beverage had a very unusual flavour, and Mrs. Brighty only drank half a cupful. Shortly before eight the three started for Norwich, and on the way the attendant symptoms of poisoning became manifest. Mr. Robinson advised them to go to the hospital, where they were successfully treated.

SHEFFIELD.

DISPOSING OF SMALL-POX PATIENTS.—The Bakewell Board of Guardians are threatening to take legal proceedings against certain Sheffielders for sending into their district patients who were known to be suffering from small-pox.

UNSTAMPED MEDICINES.—The Inland Revenue authorities have been making a swoop on the vendors of unstamped proprietaries. Several pharmacists and pharmaceutical parasites have been called to account. All of them have, we understand, acknowledged liability, and promised to be more careful in future, so that none of the cases will come into court.

SCOTLAND.

ABERDEEN.

ABERDEEN AND NORTH OF SCOTLAND SOCIETY OF CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.—This year there are 43 assistants and apprentices attending the evening classes in Robert Gordon's College, which are represented by the following 56 enrolments, viz.:—Mathematics, 1; electricity and magnetism, 3; inorganic chemistry (elementary), 13; ditto (advanced), 20; animal physiology, 1; botany, 14; lower English, 1; Latin, 3.

EDINBURGH.

THE NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.—A meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the executive of the branch was held last week, the principal business being the arrangements for the winter's evening meetings. As the result of this the committee have invited Dr. Crum Brown, F.R.S., to deliver an inaugural address, and he has consented to do so. The meeting will be held in the society's house at York Place on the evening of November 16. Mr. H. Belyse Baildon, B.A. Cantab, F.R.S.E., chairman of the executive, will preside, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance. Dr. Crum Brown in his early days read several papers to the branch.

THE CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION held its first meeting on the 26th inst. Mr. George Lunan, President, occupied the chair, and delivered an address, in the course of which he pointed out the advantages of junior pharmacy associations, and maintained that they induce a spirited enthusiasm for more knowledge of the sciences which surround "our profession." From his experience in Liverpool, where there is no such association, he could say that the want of such meetings "deprives the rising generation of a means of education which is largely generative of enthusiasm." After some more remarks on this point Mr. Lunan proceeded to unfold the advantages of education, and especially of discussions on practical pharmaceutical subjects, pointing out that the training in junior associations directly benefited the older ones by drilling the raw recruits of pharmacy; therefore the Pharmaceutical Society should encourage such associations in a more substantial way than is at present done. That had been done for Aberdeen, and he thought that it should be done elsewhere, so that all young pharmacists might resort to the local laboratories and do work for examination or in research as the case might be. After commenting on current topics Mr. Lunan concluded his address by congratulating the association on the successes which it had achieved, and encouraged it to go on. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. George Coull (vice president), which was seconded by Mr. William Gilmour, who gave his hearers good counsel by saying that to secure success in their calling it was imperative that they should throw all their energies into it and give it the impress of a strong personality which would defy any competition. Along with this individuality it was necessary to seek the highest capability for the adequate performance of their professional duties. Subsequently the members discussed the address.

GLASGOW.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.—The first meeting of the Glasgow and Scottish section was held on Tuesday evening, when Mr. J. J. Coleman, the chairman, delivered an address. Papers were afterwards read by Professors Dittmar and Mills.

POISONED WITH LAUDANUM.—Last Saturday morning, Joseph Prior, twenty-five, a dispatch clerk, took some laudanum to induce sleep, but the dose was a large one, and quite overpowered him, so that he had to be removed to the infirmary, where he died.

MESSRS. FRANCIS SPITE & Co., the well-known "cutting" grocers, are fitting up a dispensing and retail chemist's establishment in St. Enoch Square. It is reported that Mr. Cockburn, who until recently was in business in Grange-mouth, is to undertake the management of the concern.

FIRE IN A LABORATORY.—Damage to the extent of 300*l.* was done by fire on Sunday forenoon in a laboratory connected with the premises at 145 Queen Street, Glasgow, of Mr. William Simpson, chemical broker. The loss caused by the fire, the origin of which is unknown, is believed to be covered by insurance.

LINLITHGOW.

A CHEMIST SENT TO PRISON.—At the Sheriff Criminal Court last week Samuel Gibson, chemist and druggist, of this town, was sent to prison for sixty days for striking his wife with his fists. The prisoner previously committed the same offence and was sent to prison for it. Subsequent to this his wife secured a judicial separation from him, and carried on the drug business, the result of which was that she was fined for infringing the Pharmacy Act.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL MEETING.

THE November meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, Mr. Michael Carteighe, President, in the chair. All the other members of the Council were present. Mr. Greenish looked fresh and hearty after his trip to the United States. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and confirmed, and a number of persons were elected apprentices and associates of the Society. The next business was the report of the

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

This report was also read by Mr. Richard Bremridge. It stated that the committee had met on the previous day, when the whole of the details regarding the general account and the benevolent fund account were placed before them. In reading out the figures of these accounts it was noticeable that the secretary read more slowly and more distinctly than hitherto, and that all the members listened intently. The receipts for the month on the general fund account were derived from fines for infringement of the Pharmacy Act, fees for membership and for the examination, interest on investments (ground rents and consols), sale of 2,000*l.* of stock, &c., the whole amounting, with the balance from the previous month, to 4,591*l.* The payments during the month included 100*l.* to the surveyor for fees, 30*l.*, the half-year's payment of the Pied Bull yard ground rental, payments for cleaning, and the usual monthly payments. The more important of these are explained in our report of the President's remarks subjoined. The total expenditure, including a deficit from September's account, left a balance of 1,071*l.* in hand. The balance on the benevolent fund account was 595*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* During the month 167*l.* 11*s.* had been received as subscriptions, and 131*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* as donations, a further sum being derived from ground-rents.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it had only been necessary to sell 2,000*l.* of the 3,000*l.* worth of stock authorised at last meeting; and this sum came into the receipts. On the benevolent fund account he was glad to say that, as the result of the annual whipping up, the secretary had received a larger amount than usual at the closing of the year, which he considered highly satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the donations, he recalled his remarks at the last meeting that by by-law the Council were compelled to invest such sums. As to the expenditure on the general account, the items which required explanation were the payments to the surveyor of 100*l.* as fees, and an account of Parkinson's for general internal cleaning and repairs. This was a five-yearly undertaking, and consequently the sum of the account was large, but any doubt which the members might have regarding it was removed by a long and detailed explanation by the speaker of the various items of the account, such as painting work, the repairing of stairs, a new stove for the library, means of escape in case of fire, &c.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked if this bill was a yearly one.

The PRESIDENT: No; the work is done quinquennially.

Mr. ROBBINS: There is, however, an annual bill for work done on the outside of the building.

Mr. ATKINS: The work has been done under your authority, Mr. President?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

The report was adopted.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The committee had met on the previous night and had considered six applications for relief. In two of these cases grants of 5*l.* were recommended, 10*l.* was spoken of for another, and the remaining three were not entertained.

The VICE-PRESIDENT (Mr. Gostling) moved the adoption of the report

Mr. ROBBINS, referring to the President's remarks regarding donations, said that he had just had a cheque from the Manchester Association, which represented part of the balance from the Conference guarantee fund. In sending the cheque Mr. Woolley had not mentioned whether it was as a

donation or a subscription, so he had told the secretary to put it down as a subscription. He mentioned this so that others might leave it to them whether such sums should rank as donations or subscriptions. If the committee was in urgent need of money for casual relief such procedure would be appreciated.

Mr. SCHACHT: Could the by-law which imposes this restriction on donations not be removed?

The PRESIDENT: Yes; we shall require to consider that.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Is it not the rule that all surpluses of subscriptions should be invested at the end of the year? If that was so he thought it was unwise. [With this the President agreed.] Mr. Richardson, continuing, said that if there were two banking accounts, one for subscriptions and the other for funded property, they would know where they were.

Mr. SCHACHT remarked that it was open to anyone to make their donations for special purposes, such as casual relief. [This was also assented to by the President.]

Mr. WOOLLEY said that in sending the cheque he had purposely left it open whether it should go to casual relief or funded property.

Mr. BOTTLE pointed out that the funding of surplus subscriptions was permissive, and he thought that they should not continue the practice.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Hold it over for a rainy day.

Mr. HAMPSON (who was not present when the report was read) asked how much had been obtained for the fund during last month, and the secretary replied.

After some remarks from Mr. Robbins, in which he disapproved of the suggestion to have two banking accounts,

The PRESIDENT closed the discussion by saying that Mr. Richardson's suggestion was worth consideration. It might do to place the surpluses on deposit, so as to make them available for the next year; but it might take a little time before they reached that position. He wished to say that the Council were grateful to their friends for the support which they had given to the fund, especially when so many calls were made upon them. He thought it was a gratifying fact that the Council had been able to give each annuitant an extra 5*l.* in commemoration of the Jubilee. That was an expenditure that the Council did not grudge. The report was adopted.

LIBRARY, MUSEUM, LABORATORY, AND HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The report of this committee was an unusually long one, as it covered operations during the months of July, August, and September. The librarian and curator reported on their departments, and the professors and lecturers reported well of their classes, an exceptional number of students having been enrolled. The proposal for practical instruction in pharmacy had been considered at two meetings, Mr. Ince assisting the committee in their deliberations; but the matter was deferred, as was also a proposal for an alteration of the regulations for the Pereira Medal. The fresh arrangements for the conversazione, consequent on a communication upon the subject from the South Kensington Museum authorities, has to be placed in the same category. It was recommended to place the printing of the registrar and calendar with Butler & Tanner, and that the price of the calendar be raised to 2*s.*, with the usual discount to booksellers, Messrs. Churchill to publish the volume, and those connected with the Society to get it carriage free. The committee further recommended an alteration in the list of certificates received in lieu of the Preliminary examination, so that the Edinburgh and Glasgow University certificates should be the same as those accepted by the General Medical Council. A verbal alteration in the regulations of the Preliminary examination, which does not affect its nature, was recommended. At several meetings the committee had the attendance of Professors Dunstan and Green in reference to supplementing the supplies of apparatus, &c., for their lectures. As the botany class is to be taught practical histology, Professor Green applied for a supply of microscopes and other apparatus, as well as diagrams for class use. The committee recommended the purchase from Mr. Crouch of 11 microscopes at 3*l.* 15*s.* each, and a superior one at 8*l.* 10*s.*, also the articles above mentioned. Professor Dunstan reported the necessity for modern apparatus, diagrams, and chemicals to illustrate his lectures on chemistry and physics, and the committee recommended a vote of 20*l.*

for chemicals and 35% for apparatus and diagrams, the professor to supply at his own cost consumable chemicals.

Before the motion for the adoption of the report was put to the meeting, Mr. Allen asked the Council to go into committee for a few minutes; immediately on resuming Mr. Hampson had the same request to make, and this having been acceded to,

Mr. SYMES referred to the visit of the President and other members of the Council to Sheffield, and suggested that they could keep themselves more in touch with their members in the country if such visits were more frequent. Meanwhile, he would suggest that local secretaries should annually report as to the condition of pharmacy and pharmaceutical education in their districts. This suggestion was favourably received, and at a later stage Mr. Symes submitted a resolution.

Mr. RICHARDSON thought that the local secretary was not the person to make a report, for frequently he was not connected with the local school. He agreed with the remarks regarding the President and provincial centres, and after complimenting the Sheffield society, said he would see that the President got an invitation to Leicester next year.

Mr. BOTTLE and Mr. SYMES rose together, and the latter giving way, it was found that what Mr. Bottle had to say was that they were drifting from the subject.

Mr. RICHARDSON here suggested that all persons in the building should be periodically drilled with the fire-escaping appliances.

The PRESIDENT, in the course of his comments upon the committees' reports, explained about the alteration of the Calendar, and of the Preliminary examination regulations. The new materials for the professors would enable both to bring the teaching facilities up to date.

Mr. ALLEN wished to point out that the Calendar cost them 2s. 6d.; they had sold very few at 1s., because booksellers got no profit on it; but he anticipated more sales at 2s. with a discount.

Mr. BOTTLE could not see the logic of the argument, but Mr. Savage repeated Mr. Allen's explanation, and

The PRESIDENT remarked that the change was really to facilitate distribution. The Calendar was wanted by schoolmasters and "grinders," who would not come to the office for it, and it was thought that booksellers would now stock the book.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked if they were legally bound to publish the Calendar? If so, they should make it more useful by including in it the names of all chemists, and getting advertisements. (Chorus: "No.")

The President having explained that the Calendar is not the register, some further comments were made and the report was adopted.

WORK FOR LOCAL SECRETARIES.

Mr. SYMES now said that he was obliged to Mr. Bottle for his interruption, and before submitting his resolution answered Mr. Richardson by saying that they would require from the secretaries reports on other matters than education. He moved:—

"That, with a view to promoting the interests of those engaged in pharmacy and pharmaceutical education in the provinces, the Library, Museum, Laboratory, and House Committee be requested to consider the best means of accomplishing this object, either by inviting local secretaries to furnish an annual report or otherwise."

Mr. BOTTLE seconded.

Mr. RICHARDSON objected to Mr. Bottle saying that Mr. Symes was not in order. They could discuss anything on a report. (Laughter.)

THE COST OF THE RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Mr. EVANS (addressing the President): Have you any idea of what the annual expense of the research laboratory will be? I would like a straight reply to that question, for when I previously asked you if the building scheme would cost five, ten, or twenty thousand pounds the reply was not satisfactory.

The PRESIDENT: The formal scheme is not yet before the Council, and it is impossible to say one way or other what the expense will be.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Is this in order?

Mr. SCHACHT: May I ask if Mr. Evans's question is fully answered? It might be stated what the annual cost of the laboratory will be.

The PRESIDENT: We are not committed either way as to that.

Mr. EVANS: You said the last time that this matter was mentioned that only the top floor of the new building would be reserved for research, and I submit that there must be some scheme in contemplation. If that is so, what expense does the scheme involve?

Mr. ALLEN: If Mr. Evans refers to the report on research submitted to the Council in March of last year, he will see the scheme. (Laughter.) The matter then dropped.

RESUMED DISCUSSION ON MR. SYMES'S MOTION.

Mr. SOUTHALL said that if local secretaries were obliged to report he had not much hopes for the results. His experience of local associations was that they went up and down very much; they were down, he admitted, in Birmingham at present. He thought that when associations were up the reports of local secretaries would be interesting; but when they were down there would be no report at all.

Mr. ATKINS thought that if secretaries were asked to write a long report the scheme would fail; but if questions were asked it would not. He also commended the advisability of the President visiting provincial towns. He was perfectly convinced that nothing would do the Society more good than such visits.

Mr. NEWSHOLME corroborated this by saying that since Mr. Carteighe's visit a greater interest had been taken in the Sheffield society by outsiders, and he anticipated a large accession of strength to the society at the beginning of the year.

Mr. RICHARDSON also commented on the advisability of what he called "the second king of pharmacy" visiting the provinces, and Mr. RADLEY said if that sort of thing was to go on the President should have his expenses paid by the Society. (Hear, hear.)

THE BUILDING SCHEME.

The report of this committee was then read, the first part being taken and discussed in committee. That which was taken in public referred to the apportionment of the apartments of the new back premises and the fitting up of the examination rooms. The recommendations were that four rooms of the top floor be reserved for research (two large rooms for laboratories, one for a balance and store room, and the fourth for the director); that the large hall on the ground floor be for examinations generally, and that two rooms beside it be fitted up, one for chemistry (bench accommodation for eight students), the other as a dispensary and practical pharmacy, if the latter should be required. The work in connection with the fittings would be done by Mr. Howlett. A sum of 500*l.* was recommended to be paid to the contractor on account.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, explained the details. He said that it might be necessary to have a separate waiting-room for candidates, so the committee had proposed to get a room finished for the purpose; but if it was found practicable to have the candidates in the examination-room, as in Edinburgh, this room would not be required. He also explained the proposals regarding the top floor.

Mr. EVANS said research appeared to require four rooms, and this was decided upon before the Council had a definite scheme before them. Rather than that they should commit themselves to this part of the report, he would move that it should be omitted, especially since no provision was made for teaching practical pharmacy. (Hear, hear)

The PRESIDENT explained that Mr. Symes and others had visited a room in the basement of the new building, and they thought that the room would be suitable for the purpose.

Mr. SCHACHT also thought that the Council should not commit themselves to apportioning the top floor for research, and proposed that the wording of the recommendation should be altered so that it should appear that the matter would have to come before the Council again.

The PRESIDENT thought that would do; but Mr. BOTTLE pointed out that what a committee "suggested" in a report which passed the Council was thereby "approved."

Mr. RICHARDSON: The resolution does not commit us to anything.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Symes will take care that there is proper provision made for his pharmacy scheme.

Mr. EVANS understood that it was inconvenient to place the practical pharmacy in the basement, and for that reason alone they should delay allotting the top floor to research. They must ensure that pharmacy would be taken care of before scientific research. (Hear, hear.)

The PRESIDENT pointed out that there were means for making the basement floor perfectly suitable for practical pharmacy.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that he was quite for the practical pharmacy scheme, and, as he was not present at the last discussion, he now wished to say that he was of opinion that it could be carried out at much less expense than was then spoken of. His idea was to teach the subject by demonstrations, and allow the pupils to repeat the operations if they wished to. He would not have a bench and apparatus for each student. Regarding the research laboratory, he impressed on his fellow-members the desirability of not pushing the matter on too hard, for fear they should require to make alterations. They were going into great expense, and if the laboratory scheme was not carefully considered, from a pecuniary point of view, they might find out in a twelve-month after starting that it was too expensive, and have to go back.

Mr. SYMES said that, although the basement floor was not the thing that one would build specially for practical pharmacy, he thought that with certain alterations it would be quite as suitable as the top floor.

Mr. ATKINS asked the exact language of the committee's report; who were working out the details of the scheme, and if there was anything definitely fixed upon?

Mr. SCHACHT followed on the same lines, and entered into a conversation with the President, the point of which was, as alleged by Mr. Schacht, that the language of the report was vague, and might be taken to commit the Council, or otherwise. At the request of Mr. Woolley, the secretary read the passage of the report which was under discussion, and that being done,

Mr. WOOLLEY said: The committee recommend that four rooms be reserved for research, and that was what some of them objected at present to allow.

Mr. BUTT remarked that the Council had already decided for research, and the rooms would be required some time or other—it might be ten years, or any other time.

Mr. EVANS said the question was—Had they as much money in hand as would do for both research and pharmacy laboratories? It would be much better to finish the pharmacy scheme before going in for research. They should do the most important thing first. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RICHARDSON thought that the top floor should not be mentioned in the report, and Mr. Woolley was of the same opinion, he suggesting an alteration to that effect.

Mr. BOTTLE here objected to the fittings of the examination laboratories being done without estimate. They had once taken estimates for fittings, and there were great discrepancies.—It was explained that Mr. Howlett had given satisfaction previously, and Mr. Evans asked how much the fittings would cost; but the President could not say.

Mr. HILLS, referring to the research laboratory, said that surely the Council had passed a resolution committing themselves to research, and they should not go into that matter again. As to the financial part of the question, he was quite with the others, that they should look before they leaped; but that was not before them at present.

Mr. SCHACHT again pointed out that there was no hurry in allotting the top floor. If the spare room was not wanted as a waiting-room, that might modify their intentions.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Schacht was technically correct, and he saw no objection to removing from the report that part of it which had been objected to. Of course the Council had already passed a resolution for a building for research purposes, and that would have to be carried out.

Mr. RICHARDSON urged that the scheme should be submitted before anything further was done.

Mr. ROBBINS (Treasurer) continued the discussion, and said that he had arrived at the conviction that they would have to decide whether they would have research or practical pharmacy provided for, and he thought they must have

research only. (No, no.) Well, he said, you will not have sufficient funds to carry out both at the present time. I have gone into the matter very carefully, and am convinced that you cannot do it.

Mr. WOOLLEY remarked that the treasurer said that there was not enough money for both schemes. That was the best reason for not allocating rooms for research at present.

After some further conversation, Mr. Symes remarked that they had swallowed the camel [research] and were straining at the gnat [practical pharmacy]. (Laughter.)

MR. SYMES'S MOTION AGAIN.

The Vice-President rose to speak, but the President applied the cloture, so far as the financial question was concerned, and there followed some further conversation regarding Mr. Symes's motion. Mr. Hampson thought that it was too specific. Mr. Symes should take out the word "pharmacy." This he declined to do, and Mr. Allen supported him. Mr. Greenish and the Vice-President thought that the matter was too important to decide then, and that notice of the motion should be given. As there was a threatening of the whole subject being re-opened,

The PRESIDENT said: This is a matter in which the standing orders give me authority to assert my rights as chairman, and I will not allow it to be delayed. It would simply mean fresh work to the Council—and work to the Council is double work to me. (Hear, hear.) He appealed to the Council to agree to the resolution, and they did, *unanimously*.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS.

Several letters were laid on the table. Mr. Schacht asked when they would consider how the late attempted legislation would be carried forward, and the President replied that the matter would be considered next month.

The Secretary read a report of the examinations held last month, which showed the following results:—

England and Wales.

	Examined	Passed	Failed
Major	9	4	5
Minor	138	69	69
Preliminary	290	151	139
Certificates accepted		18	—

Scotland.

Minor	49	25	24
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Mr. ATKINS said that an impression existed in one of the large schools in London that on and after January next the Minor examination would take two days. He knew that to be erroneous, but asked the President to say it was.

The PRESIDENT: It is quite erroneous. When any alteration is decided upon ample notice will be given.

The Council then considered the report of the General Purposes Committee *in camera*. This was all the business.

OCTOBER EXAMINATIONS.

At a meeting of the Board of Examiners for England and Wales, held at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on October 19, 20, 21, 26, and 27, the following passed the Major examination and were certified for registration as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Carter, Harry Lansdale, London	Miner, Major Thos., Walsall
Collett, Wm. Jas., Nantwich	Williams, Joshua Edwd., Bryn Glas

The following also passed the Minor examination and were certified for registration as chemists and druggists:—

Arnold, Walter, Wolverhampton	Brown, Harry Walter, London
Bainbridge, Jno., Kirby Stephen	Clarkson, Thos. Edwd., Wibsey
Banyard, Jno. Albert, Anerley	Coley, Robert, Melton Mowbray
Barber, Daniel Stone, Dursley	Cotton, Jas. Chas., St. Helens
Barker, Robert Hy., Ambleside	Crompton, Jno. Clayton, Manchester
Bennet, Andrew Russell, Uphall	Downes, Wm. Francis, Wilmslow
Billington, Herbert Bennett, Barnsley	Dunn, Edwd. Bertram, London
Bird, Jno., Manchester	Dunn, Jno. Hy., Hull
Birkett, Geo., Morecambe	Ebbage, Hy. Edwd., Halesworth
Blewett, Wm. Thos., Penzance	Evans, Fredc. Ernest, Lymn
Boole, Lucy Everest, London	Evans, Robert Fredk., Manchester
	Everett, Jno. Garwood, Ipswich

Fardon, Arthur Edwin, Bristol
 Forster, Jas. Beaty, Carlisle
 Fresson, Alfd. Reginald, Stevenage
 Gale, Wm. Gillam, Workop
 Gibson, Matthew Hy., Matlock Bath
 Golden, Alfd. Percival, Leicester
 Golds, Lewis Geo., Steyning
 Hall, Arthur Wm., Sunderland
 Hall, Sydney Chas., Newark
 Harrison, Geo. Wm., Reading
 Hart, Frank, Bolton
 Heald, Alfd. Francis, Burnham
 Heap, Alfd., Kendal
 Hickmott, Albert Ernest, London
 Hoare, Wm. Richd., Cheltenham
 Horne, Geo. Herbert, Scarborough
 Hutchin, Llewellyn Albert Jas.,
 Saffron Walden
 Ingle, Geo., Bradford
 Jennings, Jno. Atkinson, Natland
 Jessop, Sam, Brighouse
 Jones, Edwin Pryce, Aberdare
 Kent, Wm. Hy. Plaisted, East
 Molesey
 Langton, Wm. Crowder, Epworth

Leat, Fredk. Chas., Ring vood
 Leech, Jno. Fredk., Tideswell
 Limbrick, Jas. Alfd., London
 Lyon, Walter Hy., Chatteris
 Matthews, Jno. Geo., Douglas
 Newbould, Victor Emanuel, Sutton
 Parish, Alfd. Jas., Kidderminster
 Parker, Jno. Hy., London
 Phillips, Daniel, London
 Plumbly, Walter, London
 Polack, Emanuel, Rochester
 Rees, Wm., Pontardawe
 Robins, Hy., Wantage
 Smith, Arthur, Watford
 Thorne, Hy. Courtenay, Taunton
 Tree, Fredk., St. Leonards
 Vawser, Arthur, March
 Wallbridge, Jno. Geo., Liverpool
 White, Edwd., Bristol
 White, Edmund, Rochester
 White, Thos. Arthur, Basingstoke
 Wilkinson, Chas. Edwd., Bridgnorth
 Wycherley, Arthur Lincoln, Whit-
 church, Salop

carefully closed again. Several pounds of arsenic are thus estimated to have been used, indicating on the part of the criminal a rather limited knowledge of poisons. All the patients are expected to recover, excepting a two-years-old girl, who is considered in serious danger.

THE PARIS PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Association was held on November 2, although the date—All Souls' Day, according to the Catholic calendar—is a semi-holiday, very generally observed by Parisians in honour of the dead, by visiting the cemeteries and decorating with fresh flowers and emblems their relatives and friends' graves. Nevertheless, President Delpach and Secretary Planchon were at their post, and the public sitting began with a full attendance at the usual hour, preceded by a private session devoted to special business, apparently the question of the prizes to be awarded the college students. After the presentation of some curious specimens, briefly discussed by Professor Planchon, the subject of *antipyrin* came up again for consideration.

M. Juilliard said the benzine smell of the chemical had been at the last meeting alluded to by M. Crinon, and variously explained. Since then he had been informed the product is crystallised by the makers from a solution in benzine, hence the smell in parcels imperfectly dried, under the unexpected demand for the article.

M. Boquillon remarked that crystals could be just as well obtained from an ethereal solution, such a solvent being every way preferable to benzine. Other members thought water quite as available, antipyrin being soluble in this menstruum.

M. Petit stated that for some time benzine-smelling antipyrin having been supplied by the patentees, he had been obliged to recrystallise it from watery solutions. But he wanted to know how long pharmacists were to be subjected to such inconvenience by German monopolists. The makers could hold no patent in the chemical itself, but only in the apparatus used in its manufacture, and a trade-mark right in the name. Having sold some not made by Max, the agent of the German patentees, M. Petit had been threatened with legal prosecution. The lawsuit, according to his opinion, was not likely to turn out in favour of the patentees, but no one cares to fight in the courts people ready to spend money to support their claims, however doubtful these may be.

M. Delpach reminded the audience that a chemical, under the French law, cannot be patented as such; but the appellation "*antipyrin*" may be protected. French pharmacists ought to give it another name more appropriate to its chemical composition, and then the product could be manufactured here by all.

The outcome of the discussion was that a committee of the Society is to be appointed to examine the matter, and report on the best way to redress the grievance.

M. Bourquelot presented a printed paper on *diastase*, which he briefly summarised. He said experiments on the principle had shown two important points: (1) When diastase is heated to nearly the decomposition point it is much altered, but not destroyed. (2) Diastase so altered acts on starch in a manner different from that observed with unaffected diastase. Hence, he thought, the principle is not a simple one, but composed of two different substances, not equally affected by heat.

He also circulated among the audience very good coloured photographs of a number of mushrooms. He explained the difficulty of identifying cryptogams in general—and in this Professor Planchon, a skilful cryptogamist, bore him out fully—owing to the absence of apparent flowers. Photography is, of course, the best method of obtaining faithful delineations, but the ordinary albumin process, giving images hard to colour, is barely satisfactory, since the hue of a mushroom is almost as important as its outline. M. Bourquelot had substituted *platinotypie*, by which process the image can be readily finished with ordinary water-colours and moderate skill, so as to allow an excellent identification of mushrooms in general.

After some remarks by M. Marc Boymond on *morphine phthalate*, a new salt very soluble in water and not liable to mould, and on a novel process to obtain concentrated solutions of *boric acid* by means of a very small proportion of calcined magnesia, the Society adjourned until next month.

FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

A HIGH-TONED SOCIETY.—Dom Pedro, last Saturday, without notice, attended the meeting of the Paris Société de Biologie, and was, upon the motion of President Brown-Séguard, elected by acclamation an associate member. At the same sitting, the Prince of Monaco, a regular member, related the scientific results of the dredgings effected during the third trip of his yacht *L'Hirondelle*.

THE DEBROUSSE INFANTS' HOSPITAL.—The Assistance Publique have selected a piece of private property measuring 12,000 square metres, 8,000 of which are kept as a park, to be purchased as the site of the proposed hospital in the Rue de Bagnolet. The new institution has an endowment of two million francs, left by the late Baronne d'Alquier, and will of course provide situations for several physicians, pharmacists, and internes.

A PHARMACEUTICAL BALAAM.—Some little stir in the medical and pharmaceutical press has been caused by the report that a M. Balaam, a pharmacist, and a former mayor of Bar-le-duc, had been appointed the general inspector of all the pharmacies in France, at a salary of 20,000*fr.* a year. Whether the *Répertoire de Pharmacie*, the starter of the story, was the victim or the perpetrator of a hoax does not appear, but more than one editor gravely discussed the question. Now Balaam turns out to be a myth, unless it be an ass—umed name.

PROSPECTS OF THE PHARMACY LAW.—Very little progress, if any, was made during the last parliamentary session in regard to the new legislation affecting medicine and pharmacy, and it is hardly probable the Bill will be taken up during the present extraordinary session. To speak only of pharmacy, the public feeling outside of professional circles appears to be that pharmacists are asking a great deal. They want to abolish all herbalists, suppress pharmacists of the second class, take to themselves the trade in veterinary medicines, and otherwise increase special privileges already unpopular. The same might be said of some provisions of the Medicine Bill. It is unfortunate that much-needed legislation should thus be delayed.

WHOLESALE POISONING.—Mme. Jourez, a farmer at Villers-Saint-Ghislain, near Mons, cooked for the evening meal last Saturday some cabbages gathered by herself in her garden, and served them at the family table. Soon after all the eight persons who had eaten the cabbage were taken with violent colic, and a physician who had been summoned in haste administered the proper antidotes, and a little later on detected arsenic in the cooking utensils employed for the meal. A judicial investigation has shown that the cabbages had been poisoned as they stood in the garden, some fifteen of them having been opened, sprinkled with the poison, and

A CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT'S TRIP TO PARIS.

WITH a week's holiday at my disposal, and a very limited amount of cash in my pocket, I determined to see a city which it has always been my great desire to visit. On a Monday evening therefore in July I started from Victoria Station at 7.50 P.M., to make the journey *via* Newhaven and Dieppe, and having ensconced myself, as travellers say, in a second-class carriage, I proceeded to survey my fellow-travellers. As I afterwards ascertained, all with the exception of two were Cook's tourists, and as even the most vivid imagination could not invest such beings with romance, I shall say nothing about them. Of the excepted two, one at once engaged my attention as a typical, solid, phlegmatic Britisher. He weighed twenty stone if an ounce, and his grand old face was a perfect map of Great Britain. I gazed on him with affectionate interest, wondering if this was his first journey to a foreign country, there to be the butt perchance of thoughtless, attenuated Frenchmen. Sitting opposite me with his massive frame in a draught, I thought I saw a chance to exercise those qualities of self-denial which the teaching of my juvenile period indicated as desirable. With all the "blushing honours" of my good resolution full upon me, I suggested that he might exchange seats with me to escape the current of air from the open window. A gaze of bewilderment was my answer, and a next neighbour remarked in broken English that the old fellow was a friend of his, and a Frenchman, and could not understand a word of English.

At Newhaven I made a rush for the boat to secure a berth, but my rush was not sufficiently "premature." I did not get a berth. About two hours were spent at Newhaven, chiefly in examining the interior of the refreshment department, and in scraping the fog off each others' faces in order to find out which was a man and which a bowsprit.

The fog had cleared off somewhat by the time we started, but not much; and as we passed down Newhaven harbour with fog whistle going—the boat stopping every few minutes—some hoarse, and occasionally excited, words of command proceeding from some ill-defined gentleman on the bridge—now and then a phantom-looking vessel passing us, also hoarsely shrieking—I thought over several of my aquatic adventures and felt jolly. Without narrating these in detail, I may summarise them by saying that so far I have always been more or less of a Jonah.

Soon after starting I went down below, and attempted to embrace the drowsy Morpheus by sitting on a form and resting my head on a table. But vain were my attempts to reach the somnolent state, for just as I had rendered myself comfortable there commenced one of the most unearthly, flesh-creeping, and exasperating sounds I ever heard. It was my false John Bull snoring in French. After a fine performance of fifteen minutes, during which the cabin windows were all but blown to pieces, F. J. B. desisted, and then another gentleman commenced to snore in English, and shortly the two performed together; and the combined effect was—well, language fails me.

I regret to have to confess that at last exasperation so far conquered my respect for age that I seized a small Gladstone bag and threw it at the snorers, which, missing them, tapped the claret of a mild, blue-eyed, but muscular youth. As the bag was not mine, I closed my eyes and pretended sleep, in order that the subsequent proceedings might not interest me too much.

Going on deck next morning, the coast of France could just be seen on the horizon. It was a glorious morning, and the sea was a magnificent blue, such as I have heard of in the Mediterranean, and as I have seen at Rostrevor, in that beautiful bay for ever smiling under the guardianship of the Mourne Mountains—a bay which Thackeray speaks of as having more than Italian beauty, and which, were it in any other country than Ireland, would bring tourists from all parts of the world.

6.30 A.M.—Arrival at Dieppe. Examination of baggage by elderly female custom-house officers; breakfast; train for Paris. Rouen.—Dash for refreshments; soda-water unknown; ginger beer 1 franc per bottle. Remarked the serpentine nature of the Seine, which is crossed twenty-two times between Dieppe and Paris.

We arrived at Paris about mid-day, and I was not much

impressed by the view of Paris from the Gare St. Lazare. *Déjeuner à la fourchette* at one o'clock, and afterwards by means of a map I found my way to the Champs Elysées. *En route* I noticed some English and American pharmacies, which were elegantly and tastefully decorated, and further noted that the *pharmacies françaises* were, "not to put too fine a point on it," not clean. It is worthy of note that in the English and American pharmacies such names as "pyretic saline," "fruit salt," &c., are freely applied to proprietary articles. In one I noticed a bottle of "fluid extract of buchu," recommended in the following manner:—"This preparation contains all the virtues of the plant known as Barosma Cienata, or Buchu, collected by the Hottentots, found in great abundance in cape of good hope;" and then this burst of genius-tipped diction was followed by a list of the diseases which succumbed to its virtues, in the treatment of which lofty subject the same originality of style and acts of commission and omission in the matter of capital letters obtained. Among some of the proprietary articles I noticed were "rum and quinine for the hair," "boric lotion for the feet," and "quinine injection." In the neighbourhood of the Boulevard des Capucines, a novel sight to me was two ladies hard at work dispensing, in company with two dispensers of the opposite sex, who, in accordance with the fitness of things in Paris, were *not* working so hard. A *pharmacien* in the Boulevard Haussmann, in recommending some *dragées russes*, had the figure of a Russian lady with her internal economy displayed from the throat to the waist. The *dragées* were for the organs of respiration, pulmonary affections, coughs, &c. There were several other articles advertised in a similar manner.

Although Rotten Row may correspond to the Bois de Boulogne, there is nothing in Great Britain or Ireland to compare with the Champs Elysées, about a mile and a half long, gracefully terminated on the west by the Arc de Triomphe and the Bois, and on the east ending in the noble square, the Place de la Concorde, and the Tuilleries gardens.

Some of the first things which always strike a stranger in France are the slowness of the trains, the activity of the women compared to the men, and also the number of outdoor occupations open to fair labour—working in the fields, driving vans, &c. I am willing to believe, if hard pressed, that a Frenchman may be found who works hard, but I never saw one. They may often be seen in a state of feverish excitement, but not about work. I have seen many buildings in process of erection in various parts of France, but I have never seen any semblance of "work" as we understand it in England, nor have I ever seen the whole staff at work together. The following is the average French workman's style: Work for ten minutes—then roll a cigarette—two pulls and four expectorations—then retirement for a sleep. It is no unusual sight to see a couple of Frenchmen lying down on the footpath fast asleep by a hand-barrow, which they have probably exhausted themselves by wheeling a hundred yards or so.

A turn through the Louvre, dinner, a four-in-hand drive to see Paris by gaslight, and then, having left the ladies at the hotel, half an hour at "Les Ambassadeurs" (one of the *cafés chantants* on the Champs Elysées), and a stroll down the Boulevards at midnight, completed a very fair afternoon's sightseeing.

Wednesday.—After visiting the church of St. Vincent de Paul, which did not impress me very much, we drove to the Buttes Chaumont, a pretty little park, with a quarry hewn into fanciful designs, a toy lake, artificial stalactite caverns, shady promenades, &c. This park is situated in the midst of the Whitechapel of Paris—the Belleville quarter, which Gambetta used to represent. In 1871 the Communists, driven from the city itself, sought refuge there and in Père la Chaise; these were the last places they held, their retreat from those quarters being followed by extermination.

Leaving the Buttes Chaumont, streets were passed in which nearly every shop is established for the sale of floral crosses, immortelles, &c., and we found ourselves shortly in a vast city of the dead—Père la Chaise—in which fifty burials a day frequently take place. There are 15,000 tombs in this cemetery, most of them shaped like sentry boxes with grated or glass doors, through which may be seen a small altar, with crucifix, candles, &c., and before the altar one or two chairs. These tombs were used by the Communists to sleep in during their residence there. They were shelled out of this strong-

hold and the Buttes Chaumont from Montmartre, and considerable damage was done to the tombs.

Standing by the tomb of Thiers, and close to the chapel, we can have a good view of Paris, while our guide admonishes us not to drink any water while in Paris. A great part of the water supply of Paris is said to filter through the graveyard of Père la Chaise, and the chief objection to the water of Paris is that there is too much "body" in it.

Leaving Père la Chaise, we pass the Roquette prison and the site of the dread guillotine, and shortly come to the Place de la Bastille, where once the famous (or infamous) fortress raised its gloomy turrets. The place is now marked by the July Column.

After visiting a panorama of the taking of the Bastille, which is also a faithful representation of Paris and neighbourhood in that year (1789), the realistic effect of which is so strong that one almost smells the gunpowder and hears the shrieks of the wounded, we lunch, and proceed to the Gobelins tapestry manufactory, which is very interesting. Some of the works are extremely fine, and at a distance one can scarcely realise that he is not looking at a painting. Great value is now attached to the tapestry made at this manufactory, the secret of making which has never been divulged—possibly, as our guide told us, because women have never been employed there. None of the works of the Gobelins are now ever sold, being all used for State galleries, &c. It takes from ten to fifteen years to finish a piece of tapestry of moderate size, the amount of work done per diem being less than four square inches. Hand-made carpets are also made at this establishment, and are also works of art.

After passing through the Luxembourg galleries, and admiring the prettily laid out gardens, we next do the Pantheon. The Pantheon was started by Louis XV. in 1764 as a church, and after being secularised and again turned into a church—having gone once more through the nominal changes—has been recently secularised for good, in order to admit the remains of Victor Hugo. The Pantheon is now a temple of glory; it is to be the home of France's mighty dead, the "Abbey" of Paris. The tombs of Voltaire, Rousseau, and Soufflot are here, and the coffin containing the remains of Victor Hugo, surrounded by numerous magnificent wreaths, awaits the tomb which is being prepared for it.

Thursday.—Starting at 10 A.M., we proceeded along the Champs Elysées, by the Arc de Triomphe, entered the Bois de Boulogne, and shortly reached the Longchamps racecourse, where the Grand Prix is run for. On the left hand a small cascade is pointed out, but nobody loses his head over it, as a better one may be often seen in the London streets by the bursting of a water-pipe, or the exertions of a healthy, full-grown water-cart. From here we have a good view of the fortress of Mont Valerien. A small tower may be noticed on the right (facing the grand stand), which has a slight history. Charles X., on the occasion of one of his visits to Longchamps, made a bet that he would build a tower on the place he was standing in as many days as there had been kings of France. Charles won his bet by having the tower built in nine days, and a jerry-looking concern the erection is.

The beauty of the scenery continued as we rattled up to the tiny village of Boulogne-sur-Seine, over the bridge of St. Cloud, and into the village of the same name. Having left our conveyance at the Café Cartenet, we proceeded to examine the ruined Château of St. Cloud, which is now generally held to have been shelled by the French from Fort Valerien, in order to deny that pleasure to the Germans.

The Grand Trianon is a small summer palace, built in 1688 by Louis XIV. for Madame de Maintenon. The most interesting items are: An onyx cameo, 2,000 years old; the billiard-table of Napoleon I.; the apartments of Napoleon I., in which are some chairs covered with tapestry 700 years old; the apartments prepared for Queen Victoria in 1846; and the grand summer dining-hall in which Marshal Bazaine was tried for the surrender of Metz.

In an adjacent building is the finest collection of state carriages in the world. The coronation carriage of Charles X. is a gorgeous piece of gilt and carving, having cost upwards of one million francs. The second and last time it was used was at the baptism of the late Prince Imperial. It takes eight horses to draw it at a walking pace. The state carriage used at the second marriage of Napoleon I., and sent over with Marshal Soult at the coronation of Queen Victoria, is also interesting. All the carriages in this building were only

paraded together on one occasion—viz., at the baptism of the Prince Imperial.

After a short drive we reached the Neptune fountains, said to be the largest in the world. They are now under repair, and will not play again until the Exhibition of 1889. The water has to be brought in aqueducts from a distance of eight miles, and the display, which lasts less than half an hour, costs upwards of 400*l*.

We next proceeded to the historic Castle of Versailles, and after admiring the fine exterior, we notice the equestrian statue of Louis XIV., marshalling an invisible host, with his right arm on a level with the top of the Pantheon. Before entering the palace we are pointed out the balcony on which Marie Antoinette, hand in hand with the Dauphin, stepped in 1789, with vain endeavour to pacify the rebel mob from Paris. Inside the palace is a chapel, interesting only for its magnificently decorated ceiling. Throughout the building, in every room, are evidences of the gross vanity of Louis Quatorze, who seemed to be never tired looking at his counterfeit presentments. The Galerie des Batailles contains a number of magnificent battle paintings, mostly by Horace Vernet, on one of which is the figure of a man lying on his face with outstretched arms, and no matter on which side of the picture you stand, the figure appears with head towards you. This curious effect is also produced in another painting, in which a horse seems always running away from you. One painting by Yvon has a history:—That artist was once asked by Rothschild to paint his portrait, but the sum asked by the painter was thought too much by Crœsus, so Yvon said he would paint it for nothing. The painting represents the retreat of an army, and the centre figure is that of a Jew, who, having secured his valuables, is trampling over wife and child in hasty flight, with fear, avarice, and cruelty depicted on every lineament. It was considered a remarkable likeness of Rothschild, but he was not pleased with it. This room was one of those used by the Prussians in the late war as a ward for the wounded. To the honour of the Germans be it said, they exercised the greatest care that not the slightest damage should occur to the paintings, &c., in the palace. Having feasted our eyes on several more Galleries des Peintures, we enter the Salon of Mirrors, or grand ball-room, in which the light fantastic was last tripped on August 25, 1855, when Queen Victoria opened the ball with Napoleon III. as her partner. We also passed through Marie Antoinette's boudoir, in which the window-fastenings and some other things were made by Louis XVI. Louis XVI. would have made an excellent carpenter—as a king he was a failure.

The pictures in the Palais de Versailles, if placed side by side, would reach five miles. When you pass through the rooms you have traversed two miles, and the breadth of the building is a quarter of a mile.

We returned to Paris by a different route, and passed through the ancient but dirty little village of Sèvres, celebrated for its porcelain manufactory.

Friday.—Having gone over the church of La Trinité—built by Napoleon III., and used as a hospital during the siege—and the church of St. Augustin—built to commemorate the birth of the Prince Imperial, and the only church in Paris in which mass is said for the soul of the late emperor—we entered the Parc Monceaux, in extent eighteen acres, and a *chef d'œuvre* of landscape gardening. This park was laid out by a retired pork-butcher, who also built himself a mansion and bought himself a title, but being unable to enter the sacred circle of society, he disposed of park and mansion in disgust. Having passed through several hands, the park became the property of Napoleon III., who presented it to the French people on condition that a certain amount should be expended every year in keeping it in order.

A short drive brought us to the Trocadero, and we at once ascended the tower by means of the *ascenseur* (lift), and from that elevation of 220 feet we obtained a magnificent view of the city of Paris. Fort Valerien, St. Cloud, and the grand stand at Longchamps racecourse are distinctly visible. All the principal churches and public buildings can be pointed out, foremost among them, with its gilded dome flashing in the sun, being the tomb of "Le Petit Caporal." Just below may be seen the Champs de Mars, where Napoleon used to review his troops, at present the site for the Exhibition of 1889, already in progress of erection. At the entrance to the Exhibition a tower, which may be ascended, is to be built

some 900 feet high—by far the highest ever yet attempted. Having descended, we obtained permission, not always granted, to visit the Grand Concert Hall, the span of the dome of which is the greatest in the world, being greater than that of St. Peter's in Rome or of St. Paul's in London. The seating capacity of the hall is 5,500, the stage seats being capable of accommodating 500 more. The method of ventilating and heating is the finest conceivable. At the back of each seat is a small grating through which hot air can be driven in winter and cold air in summer. All the concerts take place in the daytime, as there is no means of lighting the hall. The whole building of the Trocadero was built and furnished throughout in eighteen months, said to be a "best on record."

Returning to the Arc de Triomphe, and down the Champs Elysées, past the new American Church and the Hippodrome, we arrived at the Hotel des Invalides, the Parisian equivalent to our Chelsea Hospital, and from there obtained access to the tomb of Napoleon I., which, with its marble columns dazzling in the coloured lights thrown from half-unseen windows, its monolith sarcophagus of sixty tons, and marble crypt, was the most striking spectacle I had yet seen. In chapels to the right and left of the entrance doors are the tombs of Napoleon's brothers—Jerome, king of Westphalia; Joseph, king of Spain.

Taking the carriages we passed the Chamber of Deputies, and proceeded to the Palais Royal for luncheon, after which we visited the Bourse, arriving just at the time when the men on 'Change were shouting themselves the hoarsest. From the Bourse we proceeded to the Halles Centrales, the principal markets, where the display of flowers is worthy of France, as is also the display of dogs for sale. In one box in which were several puppies for sale, I noticed a rather pretty-looking baby playing with them, and I, knowing that bright eyes were upon me and ready to shine on deeds of wit or valour, pointed to the baby, and in my best French (which is the worst you ever heard), inquired the price; but I shall never make unfeeling jokes to a Frenchwoman again. A smashed hat—which I preserve—is a memorial to the vigour latent in a woman's arm, and the destructive power of cabbages used as missiles. I soon forgot about the irate mother in the inspection of La Sainte Chapelle, the "Jewel Church," which is the most chastely elegant of Parisian sights. The interior is one perfect glow of dim and religious tints, blending in the most complete harmony, entrancing without dazzling. All the windows, with one exception, are of thirteenth century glass, and even to my untutored eye the superiority of it in colour to that of the fifteenth century glass which one window contains was at once apparent. The art of staining glass is generally held to have been lost from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century; but the delicacy and richness of colour imparted to glass in the thirteenth century and previously has never been equalled from the fifteenth century to the present day. Having passed the Palais de Justice, and inspected the Notre Dame Cathedral, a morbid curiosity was gratified at the Morgue. The bodies of two men and one woman were on view awaiting identification the day I was there.

Not far from the Morgue is the Cluny Museum, with many a rare and priceless antiquity filling rooms where once "the wealthy old abbots of Cluny," held high revel.

In the evening the Grand Opera House, where I paid the lowest price of admission—3 francs—for the privilege of seeing the man who took the money. The man who took the money had a moustache and squinted badly; and that's all I know about the Grand Opera House of Paris.

Saturday.—Having failed to make up a party to visit the Catacombs, and finding we could not get that day to inspect the sewers, I volunteered my services as interpreter to a married gentleman who wished to make some purchases. I have some very humiliating recollections in connection with my first and only appearance as interpreter—so why should I dwell upon the subject?

At 8.50 P.M. I left Paris, and at 2.15 P.M. next day I arrived in London.

REMY'S ANTISEPTIC SOLUTION is made by dissolving 5 centigrammes of red iodide of mercury in a mixture of 30 grammes of alcohol and 1,000 grammes of water.

Notes of Nobilities.

WOOD'S PINE-WOOL CHEST PROTECTORS.

CHEMISTS in search of novelties for the winter, and all are, no doubt, would do well to acquaint themselves with the pine-wool felt articles made by Mr. Vincent Wood, of Paternoster Square. The felt is a combination of ordinary felt with a product of the pine, to which is added several medicaments which impart a pleasant odour to the articles; the inventor claims, moreover, that the medicaments are of such a nature that they are vaporised by the heat of the body and are absorbed through the pores of the skin, whereby their remedial properties are asserted. Apart from this important function, the articles—chest protectors (single and double), abdominal belts, knee-caps, &c.—are exceedingly well made, and are offered at prices which permit the retailer to sell them with good profit at the prices which are generally obtained for plain felt. The pine-wool felt is well spoken of by medical authorities. The maker offers to chemists special advertising matter which would facilitate sales.

SOLUBLE "SWEET" COATED PILLS.

WE have already reported that a patent has been granted to Mr. W. L. Howie, for the application of saccharin in the manufacture of coated pills and capsules, and the rights of the patent having been secured by Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co., that firm have during the past week sent to all chemists and druggists in the kingdom a catalogue of the pills. This catalogue is somewhat out of the usual run of such productions. The cover shows an excellent example of English engraving, the subject being the collection of sugar-cane. As a preface there is a succinct article descriptive of saccharin, and a short treatise on "Coated Pills." From this we learn that a patent was granted in 1854 for coating pills with such resins as sandarach and spent tolu balsam. We also learn the interesting fact that the pearl-coating of pills is taught in the pharmacy class of at least one university. The application of saccharin to pill-coating is a happy idea; it imparts a pleasant sweetness to the coating, which itself is so perfectly protective that a pill may lie on the tongue for from forty to sixty seconds before the taste of the mass is felt. This is not only a proof of the success of the protective character of the coating, but also that the disintegration of the mass is not interfered with. Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co. offer over 400 different kinds of stock pills and pilules.

KEISELGUHR, freed from iron and other impurities by washing with dilute hydrochloric acid, is good for the clarification of aromatic waters; but talc which has been purified in the same manner is better. (See a note on the subject in our Diary for 1887.)

THE French-Canadian pharmaceutical students have suggested to the authorities of the Montreal School of Pharmacy that the lectures should be given in French by French teachers; that the classes should be held in the evenings, and that the examination board should be composed of an equal number of French and English. At present the English speakers have it all their own way.

MR. CARTER, one of our enlightened coroners, says it is highly improper and dangerous for parents and others having charge of infants to bring them up on condensed milk. In many cases, according to him, condensed milk acts as a poison when given to infants. Mr. Carter might read the excellent article on the subject by Mr. Maben, published in this journal for December, 1884. The conclusion arrived at there was:—"When mother's milk is not available, a good sweetened condensed milk is the best substitute."

Legal Reports.

COOPER V. LITTLE.—SHEEP-DIPPING POWDER.

MR. ASTON, Q.C. (for Messrs. Cooper & Nephews, Great Berkhamsted), moved on October 27, before Mr. Justice Kay, sitting in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, for an injunction to restrain Messrs. Morris, Little & Sons from selling sheep-dipping powder made up in packets in such a manner as to induce purchasers to believe that they were buying the plaintiffs' (Messrs. Cooper & Nephews) dipping powder. On the motion being opened,

Mr. Justice Kay, after comparing packets, said he should not like to interfere with a business which was actually being carried on, and suggested that on the defendant undertaking to keep an account of sales, the motion should stand over until the trial of the action.

Mr. Moulton, Q.C., for the defendant, agreed to give the undertaking, and Mr. Aston thereupon consented to the motion standing over until the trial. His Lordship gave liberty to either side to apply to expedite the hearing.

BRITISH MANUFACTURERS' COLONIAL CUSTOMERS.— HASSALL V. LAWRENCE.

ON Monday Mr. Justice Manisty and Mr. Justice Charles, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, considered a novel point in reference to contracts made between merchants and manufacturers in this country with persons in the colonies or foreign countries. The question arose for the first time. According to the rule (Order 11, Rule 1) service of process abroad is allowable "where the action is founded on any breach, or alleged breach, within the jurisdiction, of any contract wherever made, which, according to the terms thereof, ought to be performed within the jurisdiction." In the present case the action was by a manufacturer of acids in this country against a person resident in Melbourne, Australia, to recover 463*l.* for "goods sold and delivered"—the goods supplied being acids for the composition of mineral waters. It did not appear to be disputed that the acids had been sent, though there was a controversy between the parties as to the terms on which they were sent, the defendant denying that they were sold to him, and contending that they were sent to him only as a commission agent and for sale for the plaintiff on commission. As stated by the defendant, the acids turned out so strong that they corroded the iron hoops of the casks in which they were sent, and so the casks leaked and much was wasted and destroyed; and according to the case for the defence, 50*l.* having been remitted by bank post-bill, no more was due. The present question, however, was not as to the merits, which, of course, would have to be tried, but as to the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the action at all, it being contended on the part of the defendant that the case was not one within the rule at all; and that he being resident in Australia, and the contract in his view of it having to be performed, on his part, abroad, he was not liable to be sued in the High Court. On this question the great point appeared to be as to the true nature of the contract, whether it was one of sale to the defendant or of sale on commission by him. Defendant claimed that the case did not come within the rule, and that it could not, therefore, be tried here. In the course of the argument Mr. Justice Manisty said it was a question of great importance whether our merchants or manufacturers sending goods abroad are to sue in the courts of the colonies. Counsel for the defendant replied that it was equally important whether a colonial agent is to be dragged here to be sued. He maintained that the plaintiff must show a contract to be performed here. At all events the balance of convenience was in favour of trying the case in Australia, for the evidence was all there. The acids arrived there; the casks are there; the witnesses are there; the case had better be tried there. The real question was in what state the casks of acid arrived in Melbourne.

Counsel on the part of the plaintiff urged that the case was within the rule, which, he said, simply meant that a party could be sued here for any alleged breach of a contract which he was bound to perform here—that is, in the present

case a contract to pay the plaintiff here. The payment actually made was by draft payable here. It was doubtful whether the plaintiff could sue in the Australian courts, for he could not maintain that he was to be paid there.

After a long argument the Court came to the conclusion that the action could be tried here. Mr. Justice Manisty said he came to this conclusion upon the ground that it was a case in which an English merchant sent goods to Australia, as he said, as sold, as the defendant said, to be sold by him. But in either case the plaintiff was to be paid here. Could it be supposed that the English merchant parted with his goods, leaving the consignee at liberty to sell to anyone he chose, without reference to payment to himself? It could not be supposed that the English merchant was to go, or send, out to Australia for payment, or that he was to be driven to sue there. This was a case, therefore, within the rule, and the order was one it was right to make.

Mr. Justice Charles concurred, saying he was satisfied that there was a cause of action, which appeared to be one of sale and purchase, though it was possible it might turn out to be one of sale on commission; but the payment was to be here, and the case was within the rule.

THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

THE first prosecution under this Act, which came into operation last August, was instituted at Nottingham on Wednesday, Lewis Rosenberg being charged with selling or exposing for sale certain clothing to which was applied a false description. The evidence for the prosecution was that defendant advertised himself as "Lewis, the people's clothier," and that people were led to believe that his shop was a branch of Lewis's, of Ranelagh Street, Liverpool. For the defence it was urged that Rosenberg had a perfect right to trade under the name of Lewis. The case was dismissed.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re CLUTTERBUCK & GRIFFIN, Bristol, Drysalers.

THE affairs of two of the individual partners of this firm came before Judge Metcalfe, at the Bristol County Court, on the 28th ult., the judge granting an application for the consolidation of the estates of the three partners. Subsequently, before the Registrar (Mr. E. A. Harley), the examination of William Henry Shellabear was continued. On his behalf Mr. J. H. King stated that he had no separate liabilities. When he went into the firm in 1884 he received a letter from Mr. Clutterbuck stating that they had had a very good year; they had made a profit of 3,200*l.* He had put all his savings into the firm, and had mortgaged his house too. The capital he put into the business was 612*l.* The examination was adjourned.

Jabez Clutterbuck was examined on the same day. He stated that the firm had been in existence twenty years, but had been reconstituted at different periods, when the other partners were admitted, and when Mr. Griffin left the firm 1,400*l.* or 1,500*l.* was paid to him. After referring to his private estate, he said that the partners of his firm a year ago believed they were owing 32,000*l.*, and against that they had 28,000*l.*, leaving a deficiency of about 4,000*l.* The whole of the estate passed into the hands of Mr. Gardner about eleven months before the filing of his present petition, and the result to the creditors was that they were only paid 10*s.* in the 1*l.* Ten shillings in the 1*l.* on the total amount of 32,000*l.* would be 16,000*l.*, and all he could say further as to the increase by 10,000*l.* was that there had to be put into the statement of affairs an unascertained liability of 10,000*l.*, which Mr. Gardner put it at. The debtor was cross-examined regarding this matter, after which the public examination was adjourned.

Re FREDERICK, JOSEPH, AND EDWIN FRITH, Dewshury Moor, Oil Extractors.

THESE bankrupts, trading also as builders and brickmakers at other addresses in Dewsbury, were examined at the Dewshury Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday. The liabilities amount to 26,011*l.*, the assets to 4,059*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 21,952*l.*, which is attributable to their transactions as builders.

Re WALTER LOWE, Chemist.

At the Manchester Bankruptcy Court on Monday, this debtor, who traded as Walter Lowe & Co., chemists and druggists, Rosamond Street, and High Street, Ormond Street, was examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. C. J. Dibb) as to the recipe of a certain cough mixture of which the debtor possessed the secret. He said that he had refused to give up the recipe, and he still declined to do so. It was quite true that he had scheduled liabilities to a considerable extent representing the cost of advertising this cough mixture. The reason of his refusal to disclose this recipe was that it was private. The Official Receiver: The creditors say that they are fairly entitled to have this recipe, and have it sold for the benefit of the estate, inasmuch as a considerable proportion of the debtor's deficiency has been created by virtue of this medicine. There are ten creditors for advertisements for a considerable amount in respect of this medicine. In reply to the Registrar, the debtor said that the recipe was known nowhere except in his own mind; it was not in writing. The Registrar: What is there to prevent his giving a wrong recipe? The Official Receiver: If he gave a wrong recipe we should find it out and have him brought before the magistrates for perjury. The debtor said that he declined to disclose this recipe, whatever the consequences might be. That being so, I do not think there is any object in my requiring him to do so. I think he had better go to the judge and let the judge deal with him. The matter was therefore adjourned in order that it might come before the judge.

Re W. CLEMENT MILWARD, 21 St. Stephen Square, Westbourne Park, Surgeon.

THIS debtor had a receiving order made against him on October 14, and the summary of affairs has now been issued to the creditors. The gross liabilities on the estate are 2,866*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, of which 150*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* is partly secured, the estimated value of the securities being 120*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* The only asset is a good debt of 40*l.*, so that the deficiency is 2,705*l.* 19*s.* The debtor was in practice in Manchester from 1884 to June 1885, when he removed to 59 Brixton Hill, London, with the intention of receiving residential patients. He attributes his failure to his expenditure having been in excess of his income, owing, he states, chiefly to the heavy expenses of establishing a connection at Brixton, and to his having been compelled to leave there, in consequence, as he alleges, of the defective state of the drainage. He cannot give a detailed account of his deficiency. The debtor has proposed a scheme to hand to the Official Receiver a sum of 300*l.*, to be applied by him to the payment of all costs, fees, and charges, and the balance to be divided *pro rata* among the creditors. If the scheme is accepted claims to the amount of 1,418*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* will be withdrawn. The Official Receiver has reported that the scheme appears to be reasonable, and calculated to benefit the general body of creditors.

Re WILLIAM JOHN SKINFILL, 17 Victoria Dock Road, Canning Town, Chemist.

THIS debtor had a receiving order made against him on October 13, and the summary of his statement of affairs, together with the Official Receiver's observations upon them, have now been issued to the creditors. The unsecured liabilities are returned at 175*l.*, and assets *nil*. The debtor states that he is a drug dealer and patent-medicine vendor, and that he purchased his business from his former employer in September 1886, for 100*l.* He attributes his failure and deficiency chiefly to loss by the seizure of his stock, furniture, and trade effects under a bill of sale in September last. He states that he kept a creditors' ledger and cash-book, but he has not produced them, and alleges that the latter was taken away with his stock and trade effects. The public examination is fixed for November 22.

Re H. H. TAYLOR, Mark Lane and Piccadilly, Merchant.

The second meeting of creditors under this failure was held in the London Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of Mr. Wildy, one of the assistant official

receivers. There was only a small attendance, but the proceedings were very protracted, a large number of proofs having to be gone through. The accounts, it will be remembered, showed gross liabilities of 125,530*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, of which 28,254*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* was estimated to rank against comparatively small assets; but at the first meeting a scheme of arrangement, avoiding bankruptcy, received favourable consideration. Under that the estate was vested in Mr. A. Good, accountant, of Moorgate Street, with a committee of inspection, and the trustee was authorised to sell it to the debtor for 7,500*l.* The object of the present meeting was to get the necessary confirmation of the scheme. This was granted with practical unanimity, the only dissent arising from the fact that creditors had either omitted to attend personally and vote or to send a voting letter, silence being in these cases construed not as "giving consent" but as a sign of opposition.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

BENTON, CLARKE, & Co., Philpot Lane, City, dealers in drugs, seeds, and chemical preparations; as far as regards H. D. Benton.

CLIFFORD, J. H., and ROBINSON, T. H., Pocock Street, Blackfriars, under the style of The Bovine Horse and Cattle Spice Association (proprietors, Clifford & Robinson).

DEACON & DICKSON, Willesden Lane, Willesden, physicians, surgeons, and accoucheurs.

SPOONER & BAILEY, Ealing, Southampton, chemical and artificial manure manufacturers.

VAUGHAN, F. R., & Co., Saltash, brewers and mineral-water manufacturers.

VICKERS, F., & WATNEY, J., under the style of James VICKERS, Devonshire Square, City, isinglass merchants.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883.

RECEIVING ORDERS.

CANN, FREDERICK, Bridgnorth, veterinary surgeon.

HELLOWELL, JOHN, Leeds, chemist and druggist.

FIRST MEETINGS AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

MILWARD, W. CLEMENT, St. Stephen's Square, Westbourne Park, late of Brixton Rise, Brixton, doctor. Nov. 9, Bankruptcy Buildings, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Nov. 17, 34 Lincoln's Inn Fields.

SKINFILL, WILLIAM JOHN, Victoria Dock Road, Canning Town, chemist. Nov. 8, 33 Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn; Nov. 22, 34 Lincoln's Inn Fields.

TATHAM, EDWARD, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, formerly of Henley-on-Thames, surgeon. Nov. 14, Town-hall, Henley-on-Thames; Nov. 17, Assize Courts, Reading.

ADJUDICATIONS.

HELLOWELL, JOHN, Leeds, chemist and druggist.

SKINFILL, WILLIAM JOHN, Victoria Dock Road, Canning Town, chemist.

ORDER ON APPLICATION TO APPROVE SCHEME.

OWEN, ROBERT EDWARD, Beaumaris, general medical practitioner—composition of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, in three instalments of 2*s.* 6*d.* each, in four, eight, and twelve months.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

LETTERS, P., Dundee, doctor of medicine; Nov. 7, at 2 Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh.

PARK, R., Glasgow, doctor of medicine. Nov. 7, at 12, Faculty Hall, Glasgow.

Trade Notes.

WE have received a set of samples of chemists' counter bills, in one and two colours, got up in fancy designs, from Mr. James Townsend, label printer, Exeter. Low quotations are given with each bill.

WE have also to acknowledge samples of chemists' demy papers, with quotations, from Creswick & Co., 12 Great Portland Street.

MESSRS. LORIMER & Co. are now occupying their new premises in Britannia Road, Essex Road. These are of very great extent, and have been built and fitted expressly for the requirements of their business. When they are quite furnished we shall take an opportunity of describing them more fully.

MESSRS. W. B. CRANWELL & Co. state that their Mr. W. B. Cranwell is about to return to Montevideo, to assume the management of the branch established there of the firm of Demarchi, Parodi & Co., and that their business will be carried on by Messrs. Demarchi, Parodi & Co., 58 Rue de Châteaudun, Paris, who will represent the firm of Demarchi, Parodi, & Co., established in the Republic of the River Plate.

J. JENSEN & Co. (LIMITED).—The general meeting of this company was held on October 28, Mr. D. J. Morgan (chairman) stated that the directors were able, from the net profit of the year ended June 30, to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, which would absorb 6,500*l.* They were further able to transfer 1,000*l.* to the depreciation of property fund, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 505*l.* It was further stated that the sale of the company's cod-liver oil was largely extending. Altogether their prospects were very satisfactory. The report was adopted and the dividend declared.

R. W. THOMAS & Co. (LIMITED).—We announced last week the registration as a limited company of the firm of R. W. Thomas & Co., the well-known manufacturers of photographic appliances and materials, of 10 Pall Mall. It will be noticed that this week the new company invite chemists to take shares in the enterprise, and the prospectus will no doubt be interesting to those who have affiliated photographic chemicals with their business. Among the directors, in addition to the present manager of the business, are Mr. J. L. Lyell, chemist, formerly of Allahabad, whose business is now a limited company; Mr. H. R. Barraud, a well-known photographer, and Mr. William F. Donkin, M.A., F.C.S., the lecturer on chemistry at St. George's Hospital.

THE SANITAS COMPANY, referring to the report of the "Sanitas Company v. G. Condy" published in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST last week, ask us to rectify a few errors. First, the motto on the company's trade-mark of May, 1887, was reported to consist of a fir-tree with an oval garter, inside which are the words "Omnia sanitatem omnia sanitas;" the words are "Sanitas sanitatis omnia sanitas." Secondly, in the other trade-mark, consisting in part of a device, is a eucalyptus tree; the word "sanitas" does not surround the tree, but is placed underneath it. Finally, after the passing of the new Trade-marks Act, 1883, the company registered as their trade-mark the word "Sanitas" alone, and not the words "Sanitas Limited," as mentioned in the report. We are asked to add that the perpetual injunction of Mr. Justice Kekewich not only restrains the use by the defendant of the word "Sanitas," either alone or in any combination with any other word or words, but also the use of the word "Sanitant," or any other mere colourable imitation of the trade-mark "Sanitas." The company further inform us that they regard the title of the "Sanitas" towels for ladies, referred to in this journal of the 29th ult., page 550, as an infringement of their trade-mark by Messrs. Hothersall, and by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson, who seem to be acting for them.

THE HOP BITTERS COMPANY (LIMITED).—The first annual report of this company has been issued to the shareholders. The account shows an income for the year amounting to 10,790*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; only 138*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* is derived from other sources than the sale of the hop bitters. The charges are—for salaries and office expenses, 1,700*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*; rent, rates and taxes, 553*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; law charges (moiety of), 789*l.* 13*s.*;

and directors' fees, 450*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; thus leaving a balance of 7,296*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* to be dealt with. The directors value the trade-mark, good-will, &c., of hop bitters at 83,482*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*; they have outstanding debts amounting to 3,589*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*; stock, 1,224*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; cash, 8,176*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; fixtures, furniture, &c., 403*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; outlay on advertising, 3,246*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* (the company apparently has not yet exhausted the influence of advertising done to this extent); and preliminary expenses, 457*l.*; altogether a total of 100,579*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* To balance this there is a subscribed capital of 68,596*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and 25,000*l.* of 6 per cent. debentures; creditors, 3,226*l.* 15*s.*; the profit above mentioned less 3,540*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, paid in dividend, interest, &c., at the end of the first six months. Mr. Angus Cameron, the managing director, in his remarks points out that, although the business did not fall under their control until the beginning of January 1887, the balance-sheet represents the transactions for the year ending September 30 last, the accounts of the vendors for the first quarter having, under the terms of the contract, been adopted and incorporated by the company. During this transition period the business suffered to some extent. The initial difficulties of a new management have, he proceeds to say, "been in this case greatly augmented by circumstances of a peculiar and exceptional character, and more especially by a large traffic in counterfeit hop bitters, the suppression of which involved a very heavy expenditure. The result of the year's trading, however, showing as it does balance to the credit of profit and loss account of 7,296*l.*, may be considered satisfactory, and the directors now recommend the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the entire year. After payment of this dividend, as well as writing off one-fifth of preliminary expenses, a surplus balance of 326*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* will remain to be carried forward to next year's account. The directors have no hesitation in expressing their belief that the difficulties referred to, which they could not possibly have foreseen or prevented, have now to a great extent been overcome, that the business is steadily improving, and that increased profits may confidently be looked for in the future." The directors, we may mention, are E. B. De Fonblanque (chairman), W. H. Harris, M.D., F. S. A. Hanbury-Tracy, M.P., F. Hess, and A. Cameron. A meeting of the shareholders will be held on November 8, to make the necessary arrangements for the ensuing year.

NEW COMPANIES.

CLEVELAND SALT COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 75,000*l.*, in 6,000 preference and 1,500 deferred shares of 10*l.* each, to trade as salt-borers, salt, alum, gypsum, and limestone miners and manufacturers.

BURY'S PATENT GOUT MIXTURE COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital of 2,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Object, to acquire the letters patent No. 11,739, dated August 30, 1887, granted to J. Lowndes Bury for the manufacture of gout mixture. First subscribers are, with one exception, persons resident in Manchester, consisting of clerks, stockbrokers, and a financier. The company is registered without special articles.

MINERAL WATER TRADE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.—This company proposes to raise a fund, or funds, by annual subscriptions, entrance fees, donations, fines, levies, loans on security, and otherwise, to protect the bottles, boxes, and other property of members. Each member undertakes to contribute a sum not to exceed 1*l.*, in the event of the company being wound up.

CONCENTRATED (WHITE SWAN) HOP BITTERS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 35,000*l.*, in shares of 1*l.* each. Company formed to purchase the trade-mark and label of the White Swan, used in the manufacture and sale of hop bitters known as Shirley's Concentrated Hop Bitters, and to carry on the trade or business thereof. The first subscribers (who take one share each) are:—R. Nevell, lime manufacturer, Wrotham, Kent; Andrew A. Harford, gentleman, 36 Ickburgh Road, Clapton; John Kipling, wholesale clothier, 51 and 53 Moor Lane, E.C.; H. Peterken, printer, 153 High Street, Poplar; J. J. Talman, C.E., The Grange, Harbledown, near Canterbury; W. H. Harkness, gentleman, Mallow, county Cork; Frank Day, gentleman, 4 Evering Road, Stoke Newington. The regulations of Table A of the first schedule of the Companies Act, 1862, apply, with slight modifications.

REGISTERED **"SANITAS"** TRADE MARK.
THE BEST DISINFECTANT
 FLUID, OIL, POWDER, SOAPS,
 TOILET & VETERINARY PREPARATIONS

For Trade Lists, Terms, &c., apply to
THE SANITAS CO., Ltd., Bethnal Green, LONDON, E

Apollinaris
"THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS."

"The famous Natural Mineral Water of the Apollinaris Spring continues to hold the leading position among table waters in this country as in America."
 BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 27th August, 1887. [3]

SLACK & BROWNLOW'S
COMPRESSED CHARCOAL FILTERS.
 See Advertisement, page 17.



THE "VIKING"
ESSENCE OF BEEF
 AND
PURE BEEF TEA
 IN GLASS.

The "VIKING" Essences are guaranteed perfectly pure. They are delicious to the palate, stimulating to the digestion, and can be immediately assimilated. Most beneficial in all cases of exhaustion. Price Lists, Samples and Analysis from

The Viking Food & Essence Co. LIMITED, [1]
 28 Hearn St., London, E.C.

STRENGTH & PURITY

SILICATED CARBON
PATENT MOVABLE BLOCK FILTERS.
 SEE ADVERTISEMENT, PAGE 17.

WOODHALL SPA
BROMO IODINE MINERAL WATER.

The strongest known Iodine Water in the World.

This remarkable Spa has been purchased by a Syndicate of gentlemen who have determined to make more widely known the extraordinary curative powers of this spring, which contains more Iodine and Bromine than any spring in Europe—
"And, we may safely add, in any part of the World."—*Dr. Cuffe, for many years late resident Physician at Woodhall Spa.*

An analysis of the water having been made in November, 1886, by Professor Wanklyn, M.R.C.S., corresponding member of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Chemistry, a very important discovery has been made, viz., the presence of Free or Elementary Iodine.

Dr. Wanklyn says—"So far as I am aware, this is the first instance in which free Iodine has been found in appreciable quantity in a natural water. For many years the Woodhall Spa has been celebrated as a valuable remedy in skin diseases. The fact that it is a solution of free Iodine is interesting in this connection, and well worthy of the attention of the medical profession."

The Woodhall Bromo Iodine Water is now being bottled at the Spring by the Sole Agents, BROMLEY & CO., Chemists, 233 High Street, Lincoln, 5 & 6 The Grose, Buxton, and at Woodhall. All communications to be addressed to them at the Spa, Woodhall Horncastle.



ELLIMAN'S UNIVERSAL EMBROCATION
RHEUMATISM FOR LUMBAGO. SPRAINS.
ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION
BRUISES CHEST COLDS SORE THROAT from COLD-STIFFNESS
 Prepared only by **ELLIMAN SONS & CO. Slough, Eng.**

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL MEETING.

THE meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday was chiefly characterised by the preternaturally grave deportment of its members, the whole twenty-one of whom were present. This characteristic was especially noticeable when the finance report was under discussion, and it developed into pithy and pertinent remarks when prospective expenditure came into view. The business on the agenda paper was of a routine character, so that comparatively little of it, and that of an unimportant nature, was transacted in committee. The President took even greater pains than usual to explain the items on the financial statement; his remarks, indeed, were diffuse almost to wearisomeness, but the one big speech was probably the means of averting the numerous little speeches which are generally the result of imperfectly grasped financial details. Following this was the Benevolent Fund report, which showed a satisfactory augmentation to this useful charity from subscriptions and donations. There is now a matured feeling amongst the members of the Council that the by-law restrictions regarding the investment of the money of this fund are too severe, and Mr. Richardson made the first step to breaking down the restrictions by proposing that surplus money should be kept as ready cash. Year by year the applications for casual relief increase, and the Council do more good in affording relief in this way by small sums to many than by restricting their benevolence to a much smaller number of annuitants. This policy necessarily prohibits extensive investment. In connection with the school of pharmacy it is satisfactory to note that the new professor of botany is making a good start by forming a practical histology class. There is a feeling amongst the members of the Society and in the Council that too much was to be made of botany, but although the teaching may not have so direct an application to pharmacy as it had in Professor Bentley's time, yet the ultimate results will not be short of what they were. We do not require many accomplished botanists in pharmacy, but botanical science is superior training to the student, and histological practice involving the use of the microscope has a direct bearing upon materia medica, and becomes marketable knowledge to the pharmacist. Mr. Symes brought forward a motion, and carried it, having for its object the closer association of provincial centres with the head centre of the Society. The annual reports of local secretaries

may afford interesting reading when they are in the form of a blue-book, but it is too soon to judge of the results to pharmacy, supposing there should be any. The only other topic of interest which came before the Council had direct reference to our criticisms of the financial position of the Society, and the reckless character of the contemplated expenditure. To Mr. Evans credit has again to be given for eliciting the facts which will be found in our report. He failed, however, in his attempt to get a definite statement from the President of what research will cost the Society, and what the whole building scheme will cost. In his demand for information on the former point he was supported by Mr. Schacht, Mr. Atkins, and other of the veteran members of the Council, and as the alternative of the questioners was disapproval of the part of the report referring to research, the President allowed this alternative to be accepted. Before this happened the treasurer of the Society made the remarkable statement, which was a virtual admission of our repeated statements, that the time has come when the Council must decide whether they will have a laboratory for research or a laboratory for teaching practical pharmacy as Mr. Symes would have it taught. He had carefully considered the financial position of the Society, and the opinion he had arrived at was that they could not have both. This, together with the President's studied silence on prospective expenditure, makes out an even worse case for the Society than we expected. It cuts the matter very fine indeed when the treasurer states that the funds will only admit of one of two schemes, the larger of which, according to Mr. R. W. Giles, bears the same relation to the Society's total expenditure as the cost of a servant does in the expenses of a household. The decision of Wednesday has not improved the prospects of research. Mr. Evans may visit India with a clear conscience that he has fixed the safety-valve so that the boiler will not burst before he returns. The meeting was the shortest but not the least momentous one of the present Council.

QUININE MIXTURES.

It must have been noted by those who follow carefully our weekly dispensing notes that queries in reference to the compounding of quinine mixtures are of frequent occurrence, and probably this class of medicines is the most prolific source of difficulty to the dispenser. It is seldom, however, that there is anything startlingly novel, or any difficulty which has not been experienced and successfully dealt with by those who have seen a fair amount of dispensing, especially what we may call cosmopolitan as contrasted with local or domestic dispensing. The latter rarely furnishes novelties, for if the chemist is on good terms with the physician there is generally a consultation as to form of administration before any novel mode of treatment is adopted. It is generally the stray prescription which puts the chemist in quandary, and how to get out of it is the first thought. In the case of sulphate of quinine there are common principles a knowledge of which would frequently avert difficulties. A brief *résumé* of these may, therefore, be useful to those who make use of our dispensing column.

As regards the solution of quinine in acids, the fact that the mineral acids, strong or dilute, make presentable pill-masses, indicates that they should not be poured upon the quinine, but that the latter should be well diffused in water before acids are added. Very often, however, no acid is ordered in the prescription. In such a case it is extremely unwise to depart from the letter of the physician's order. The only admissible manner of compounding is to reduce the quinine to fine powder, and diffuse it in the liquids. In

some cases, as when spirit of ether is an ingredient, the quinine in this form may tend to adhere to the bottle; but this may be avoided by the addition of a little mucilage of acacia to the mixture. Some dispensers advocate that the quinine should be dissolved in such circumstances, and the view is one for which there is much to be said; but in all cases quinine in solution is much more bitter than when in suspension, and this fact throws the balance of opinion in favour of the suspension method. The greater number of difficulties with quinine mixtures occur through the precipitation of the quinine after it has been brought into solution. The simplest of these, apart from those due to the action of ordinary alkaloidal precipitants, are caused by the formation of less soluble salts owing to double decomposition. For example, we last week gave a prescription in which ammonium acetate induced a precipitate. Apparently, nothing is to be dreaded by the mixture of a solution of quinine with milder spirit; but it so happens that acetate of quinine is one of its least soluble salts, although it dissolves readily on heating, and in certain proportions it is possible to get a mixture of an alkaline acetate and quinine sulphate perfectly solid owing to the formation of quinine acetate. Salicylates also form sparingly soluble compounds with soluble quinine salts. The most intractable results are those caused by alkaloidal precipitants. The more common of these which are found associated with quinine in prescriptions are the alkaline carbonates and hydrates, iodides and (from them) iodine, perchloride of mercury, and infusions or tinctures containing tannin. In all circumstances these substances precipitate the quinine as insoluble compounds, which in most cases are adhesive. The alkaline hydrates and carbonates precipitate quinine as hydrate, and there is no means of avoiding the precipitation. Prescribers appear to be fonder of ordering the alkalies—generally in the form of aromatic spirit of ammonia—with citrate of iron and quinine than with the plain salts of quinine, probably under the impression that the spirit does not affect the stability of the double citrate. Under the same impression, probably, ammoniated tincture of quinine is sometimes directed to be diluted with water. In this tincture quinine exists as hydrate dissolved in alcohol, and when the alcohol is reduced to a certain point the quinine falls out of solution. The only way to make presentable mixtures in such cases is to dilute the alkaline solution well, and in the case of other compounds of quinine than the ammoniated tincture, the alkaloidal solution also, adding to the latter mucilage of acacia in the proportion of half a drachm to each ounce of the finished mixture; then mix the two solutions. In this way the quinine is deposited in a fine state of division, and, although it subsides, the precipitate is readily diffusible on shaking, which is not the case if the mucilage is not added, so that it may be considered an admissible alteration of the pharmacy of the prescription, and should therefore be noted thereon for the benefit of the next dispenser. Iodide of potassium forms variable compounds with solutions of quinine salts. Neutral solutions of quinine and iodide of potassium do not react chemically, but the presence of free acid invariably induces a chemical change, and this is accentuated if there is any substance in the mixture—such as nitric acid or spirits of nitre—which liberates iodine. It is seldom that herapathite is formed—a brown compound of quinine iodide and free iodine being generally the product. If possible, the dispenser should communicate with the prescriber in such cases, so as to suggest the exclusion of the oxidising body; failing that, the reaction between the iodide and oxidising body should be carried out with as small a quantity of iodide as possible, and in a perfectly full phial. The rest of the iodide should be mixed with the quinine and

muilage mixture before the iodine solution is added to it. Bromides present no difficulty with quinine solutions, and it is seldom, fortunately, that perchloride of mercury is prescribed with quinine. The precipitate which it causes is a heavy one, and without something to suspend it, it is possible that the patient might get an excessive quantity of the quinine mercurate in the last dose. Some vegetable infusions containing tannin, particularly the acid infusion of roses, form abhorrent-looking mixtures with quinine, owing to the precipitation of quinine tannate. In these cases it is best to use pure quinine in proper proportion rather than the sulphate, so that chemical reaction may be reduced to a minimum. Apart from the examples which are given, other kinds of difficulties occasionally occur. In all cases, however, the dispenser has only to adhere to the principles that (1) chemical reaction should be effected in the most dilute solutions, and (2) a means for the proper apportioning of the dose should be adopted; for the latter muilage of acacia is not only generally suitable, but it has also been shown to retard or modify chemical reaction. Hence the necessity for adding it to the quinine solution before the reacting element.

The thought will naturally occur to many that if a better knowledge of the alkaloids were required in the qualifying examination, this knowledge would have a practical influence at the dispensing counter. While we have been reminded of this class of difficulties by several which have been recently submitted for solution, we may recall the fact that a few correspondents have sent notes of dispensing difficulties and how they overcame them. This is an example which might be more generally followed for the benefit of all.

STENOCARPINE, A FRAUD.

FOR some weeks the medical profession and pharmacists of the United States have been agitated with the reputed discovery of an alkaloid said to excel cocaine in producing local anæsthesia, and to be more a powerful mydriatic than homatropine. The new alkaloid was named stenocarpine, and was stated to be obtained either from *Acacia stenocarpa* or *Gleditschia triacanthos*, but, like dramine, nobody but its discoverer could find it in the original source. The wonderful properties of the obscure body were discovered by a veterinary surgeon, Goodman by name, who applied a poultice of the leaves to the swollen fetlock of a horse, and was surprised to find that he could afterwards incise the swollen part without causing pain. He communicated this fact to a Dr. Seward, who examined the leaves and isolated an "alkaloid" from them which he named stenocarpine, under the impression that the leaves were those of *Acacia stenocarpa*. It has since been shown that the leaves are from the tear blanket tree (*Gleditschia triacanthos*), but on this point there is considerable doubt. Nevertheless, the "alkaloid" has been rechristened "gleditschine," and experiments made with it by Dr. J. H. Claiborne, jun., of New York, who reported that two drops of a 2-per-cent. solution obtained from Dr. Seward produced in a few minutes complete insensibility of the cornea and conjunctiva, with dilatation of the pupils, the anæsthesia lasting for about half an hour, the dilatation of the pupils for thirty-six hours. It appeared to be more efficacious than cocaine as an anæsthetic, for Dr. Claiborne reported instances in which the application of a few drops of the solution to the skin produced almost absolute anæsthesia, so as to permit the painless removal of tumours, warts, &c. Other physicians corroborated Dr. Claiborne's clinical observations, and it seemed that cocaine would have to take a back seat. But chemists have not been satisfied about the substance; the botanical source of the plant was not sufficiently

definite, and those who examined the *Gleditschia* were unable to find the alkaloid in it. Altogether the alleged discovery looked "fishy," and the advising chemists of several well-known firms, undertook the investigation of the matter, the result of which we have received to-day in a cablegram from our New York correspondent. He says:—

"*Stenocarpine proved fraud. Is mixture of cocaine and atropine.*"

The *Indian Agriculturist* recalls the fact that the Madras Revenue Department not long since sent home some samples of linseed oil, crushed in India from Indian-grown seed, with the view of obtaining experts' views as to its quality and value, and determining its chance in the London market. Several well-known firms were communicated with by the Secretary of State for India, and from the answers returned by them to these communications, it appears to be the general opinion that the oil is too thin and deficient in drying properties to be ever used extensively for the manufacture of oil-cloth or for painting. It has, however, other values, and it might be used for mixing with other oils, and also in the composition of linseed cake, which is widely used for feeding cattle, in both of which uses it might have a large demand. Linseed oil, it seems, is also the cheapest and least remunerative of all the oils, and would stand no chance of competing, even at low rates, against the finer oils which sell for a better price. The consensus of opinion of the experts received appears to be against the value of Indian linseed oil as a merchantable commodity. But at the same time attention is drawn to the finer oils which India could grow, and which would, from their higher price, prove more profitable. Sesame oil, it is calculated, should be worth 30*l.* a ton at least, and Indian sesame is not even known in the London market. It is recommended that the India Office should import several shiploads of both Indian sesame and cotton seed, and sell them by auction. Small samples in bottles in museums give no practical information—dealers want to see an article in bulk, say 1,000 tons, or, better, 5,000 tons. London traders especially pay no attention to small petty trades and produce in bottles.

* *

Syrupus Apomorphine Hydrochloratis. Apomorphine was discovered in 1869 by Matthiessen and Wright, and was at the same time examined physiologically by Dr. Gee, who found it to be a powerful emetic. Yet it found no place in the Additions (1874) to the British Pharmacopœia, and was first officially recognised in the 1885 edition. The hydrochlorate was then introduced, with the hypodermic injection as its only preparation. Had apomorphine continued to be used only as an emetic, that one preparation would have sufficed; but in recent years it has come into considerable use as an expectorant, hence the introduction of the *syrupus* into the Unofficial Formulary. This new preparation contains 5 grains of apomorphine hydrochlorate in the pint, and the full dose is 1 fl. drachm = $\frac{1}{32}$ grain of the alkaloidal salt. Apomorphine itself and neutral solutions of its salts rapidly become green and suffer decomposition by oxidation. Hence it is necessary to have a solution, which is intended to keep, distinctly acid. No acid does better than—perhaps none so well as—hydrochloric. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Formulary Committee should have adopted it. Yet acetic acid does very well as a preservative, and, we fancy, would have been more appropriate in an expectorant syrup. The alcohol is of doubtful value, both pharmaceutically and therapeutically. Although hydrochloric acid precipitates apomorphine hydrochlorate from solutions of the salts, there is no danger of a deposit occurring in the present preparation, on account of the small amount of salt in the solution. On the whole, *syrupus apomorphine hydrochloratis* may be pronounced a success, and admitted to fairly supply what was required.

* *

A Bankrupt's Formula. The judge of the Manchester Bankruptcy Court has a tough nut to crack in a bankrupt chemist, among whose assets is the recipe for a cough mixture which both debtor and creditors seem to regard as of remarkable value. The Assistant Official Receiver has asked the bankrupt to surrender this recipe, but the latter declines to do so, heroically adding, "no matter what

the consequences may be." He says it is not written down any where, and is only in his own brain. We must leave the judge to devise a means for sucking the brain of its precious contents if he thinks this asset is one which must be surrendered for the benefit of the creditors. In the old days of bankruptcy debtors were called upon to pay in person when they could not pay in purse, and later the question of secret formulæ has often come up at creditors' meetings. As far as we know the asset has always been regarded as too ethereal to be dealt with by process of law. Even if it were desirable to revive the system of the imprisonment of the body for debt, the mind must still be left free. Moreover, one wonders what these Manchester creditors expect to get from this recipe if they can secure it. Formulæ for cough mixtures are worth intrinsically, say a shilling a dozen, and that this one has not attained to any exceptional commercial value is pretty well evidenced by the present position of its "discoverer."

* *

A Fruitless Search. Planters in our East Indian possessions take great interest in all new febrifuges, and anything new which is likely to replace cinchona and its products is generally hailed with something like alarm. Of course they have a stake in the cinchona industry, and it was natural when the reports of the salutary influences of the eucalyptus in removing malaria reached them that they should keep their eye upon it. Now an Indian contemporary informs us that "after all we have read of the *Eucalyptus Globulus*, and the wonders we have been led to expect would result on its introduction into and cultivation in this country, it is sad to find on reading the opinion of an expert that our hopes have been founded on sand. The bark and leaves of the tree have now been examined, and neither quinine, quiniæine, cinchonidine, nor cinchonine is contained in the plant in any proportion. And this when we were previously led to believe that the tree was almost, if not quite, as good as cinchona in furnishing the world with a febrifuge." This is disappointing, for, according to the *Lancet*, two learned professors obtained an alkaloid from the bark which crystallised, like quinine, as a sulphate, and which yielded the ordinary reaction of quinine with chlorine water and ammonia. Taking everything into consideration we should have inferred that the *Lancet* was wrong. Our Indian contemporary also finds that, instead of producing rainfall, the eucalyptus takes up more than its fair share of water. But the investigations were not carried sufficiently far to lead to the discovery that the water-imbibing propensity is the reason why the eucalyptus has found new homes in the malarial districts of Italy, California, and other previously unhealthy parts of the globe.

* *

French Pharmaceutical Grievances. The pharmaciens of France, highly scientific though they are, have always an eye to commercial results. Their ideas of the duty of the community towards them, as expressed in the *projets de loi* which they are perennially drawing up for submission to the legislature, are not generally remarkable for their modesty. They have already the exclusive right of dealing in medicinal preparations and of dispensing physicians' prescriptions, but they are unhappy because veterinary surgeons may supply cattle medicines, herbalists may deal in herbs, and druggists may sell crude drugs. Now another trouble looms up before them. The wily Teuton is inventing chemical remedies as fast as the prescribers of Europe can absorb them, and some of these, handicapped though they are by their origin, have acquired considerable popularity in France. Antipyrin has proved a particularly troublesome thorn in the French flesh. It is largely prescribed, and the pharmaciens have to dispense it. At present they are obliged to get it from a certain Mr. Max, who is the representative in France of the German manufacturers. Neither he nor his principals have a French patent for the article, for French law does not allow medicinal chemicals to be patented. He has only a trade-mark protection in the name "Antipyrin"; so if the product can be prescribed under a different name the pharmaciens may make it themselves and dispense and sell it. A few of them would perhaps make ten francs a year more out of it than they do now. So a committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Paris has been appointed to see if this end cannot be obtained.



AND

Literary Notes.

Drugs and Medicines of North America. By J. U. and C. G. Lloyd, Cincinnati.

THE fourth part of the second volume of this valuable work completes the review of the lobelia species and takes in full monographs on *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Lindera Benzoin*, *Diphylleia cymosa*, *Cercis Canadensis*, and *Erechtites hieracifolia*, the latter to be completed. The most important of these considered as medicines is the scrophularia, although the others have a certain botanic and historic interest. *Lobelia syphilitica* is used to some extent in homœopathic medicine, but not otherwise medicinally, except by ignorant people who called it *High belia*, the supposition being that as *L. inflata* is called *Low belia*, this must be the *High belia*. This is nonsensical, of course, but it is an interesting example of the genesis of nomenclature. *L. cardinalis* has a striking red flower, and for that reason was very early brought to Europe, John Parkins, a London apothecary, having as early as 1629 described and figured it from plants grown in London, whence it had been brought from France. The flower of *Scrophularia nodosa* presents one of those interesting provisions of Nature for the perpetuation of species. "When the flower opens none of the sexual organs are visible, but in one or two hours the style, bearing the small globular stigma, unbends and projects from the lower side of the mouth. In this position it rubs the abdomens of the insects that visit the flower to get the honey secreted by the disk surrounding the base of the ovary. After being fertilised (by pollen of other flowers rubbed from insects), and before any of the stamens have appeared, the style bends out, and is closely appressed with the lower corolla segment, and out of the way of future insect visitors. In this manner young flowers are always fertilised by the pollen of older flowers." The common name of this plant is "Carpenter's square," probably on account of the square stem, but as to that the authors are doubtful. It is a plant well known in Europe under other names. In the States both the roots and tops find their way into the market, the former being most sought after. The eclectics and homœopaths are the principal consumers of it. The former have an *Ointment Scrophularia* made by heating together scrophularia leaves (fresh), 1 part; lard, 2 parts; tallow, 1 part; until the water is driven off and the leaves are crisp; then strain. This produces a green ointment of a rank odour used in piles, tumours, &c. The drug also enters into the composition of *Scrophulus* syrup and Scudder's alterative. The authors have made a chemical examination of the plant. Starting in the strange and erroneous belief that *digitalin* is an alkaloid, and that the botanical relationship of the two plants might mean constitutional similarity, they examined it for alkaloid, and actually obtained from a preparation of the root a precipitate with alkaloidal reagents and with ammonia. By shaking the ammoniacal solution with ether the "alkaloid" was obtained "in a sufficiently pure condition to assert that it is white," and that it forms salts with ordinary acids. Glucose was also found in the "alkaloidal" solution, so that it might be inferred that the authors were dealing with a decomposition product. But on the same page we find that they say, "Certainly the native American scrophularia has not developed an alkaloid, and climate and soil have not given it a peculiar principle." We may conclude therefore that this part of the work is of little value. Of the other plants it is interesting to note that the *Lindera Benzoin* was at one time the reputed source of gum benjamin, and the *Cercis* "in old times acquired the reputation of being the tree on which Judas hanged himself, and hence came to be known as Judas Tree." So Gerarde said in 1597.

SULPHITE OF SODA solution (1 in 20) removes iodine stains from the skin, and at the same time alleviates the pain and irritation which the iodine frequently causes.

Practical Notes and Formulae.

LAXATIVE CURRANTS.

A VERY agreeable purgative for children are the passulæ laxativæ of the Danish Pharmacopœia. Four oz. of senna-leaves are digested for half an hour with 8 fl. oz. of hot water, thrown on a strainer, and expressed sufficiently to make 6 fl. oz., which are boiled to a syrup with 12 oz. of sugar. Pour the hot syrup over 12 oz. of well-washed currants (Corinthian raisins) and mix well with 3 drachms of powdered Ceylon cinnamon. The dose is 1 to 2 teaspoonfuls.—H. W. Wilder in *Drug. Circ.*

CHILBLAIN REMEDIES.

DR. E. BESNIER (*Deutsch. Med. Zeit.*) states that considerable relief is afforded by the application of camphor spirit to the swollen hands, which should afterwards be dusted with a powder composed of 1 part of salicylate of bismuth and 9 parts of powdered starch. For chapped hands which are much irritated by the frost the following lotion should be applied at night, followed by the above powder:—

Glycerine	..	..	..	..	10 drachms
Rose-water	..	..	..	..	10 "
Tannin	..	..	..	..	6 grains

Mix.

PILL-MASSSES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many sugar-coated and gelatine-coated pills, plain pills are often asked for and prescribed. Since not only the physicians but also the customers want them *freshly* made, and that always consumes time, often not easily spared, it is recommended to make the pill-mass (say for a couple of dozen or half a hundred pills) with glycerine and keep the mass in jars with the proper quantity for each pill marked on them. When called for we need only weigh off the quantity necessary and roll out into pills. If the masses be made rather stiff they will not get too soft on being kept. Opium pills are the only ones which must be kept ready as pills (and not made with glycerine), since physicians often expressly want *old* opium pills.—H. W. Wilder in *Drug. Circ.*

[Obviously glycerine will not do for every pill-mass.—Ed. C. and D.]

IODOFORM DEODORANTS.

MR. W. M. ROSS recently reported to the Indiana Pharmaceutical Association on the efficacy of iodoform deodorants, sixteen kinds being used. The report gives a table showing the comparative value of each kind used, the number 10 being the maximum awarded. Coffee comes out at the top of the list; carbolic acid (1 to 2) and thymol occupy a like position so far as their masking power is concerned, but their therapeutic action is an objection to them, and the odour of thymol is, to some, worse than iodoform. The following formula also deserves equal rank with coffee, the only objection to it being the time taken to complete the operation:—

	Parts
Iodoform	100
Oil of neroli	1
Oil of lemon	2
Tinct. benzoin	2
Acetic acid	1

Mix and place in a stoppered flask, and keep at a temperature of from 120° F. to 140° F. over a water-bath, for two days.

This process completely covers the odour of iodoform, replacing it by one very agreeable, much resembling eau de Cologne. The powder may be kept ready for use. A good result was also obtained by the following formula:—

	Parts
Iodoform	100
Oil of peppermint	10
Carbolic acid	6

This almost completely masks the iodoform odour, and that of the carbolic acid is rendered much more agreeable by the oil of peppermint. Oil of lavender has the same power as this mixture.

PRESERVATION OF SYRUPS AND JUICES.

THE principal point in preparing syrups that will keep is to use the finest refined sugar, a perfectly clear menstruum, removing the froth from the syrup during boiling, and keeping it in small vessels after it has become cold. The vessels also should be perfectly dried before they are filled. If the syrup is placed in the bottle in the hot state, or in wide bottles, the condensed vapour will gather on top of the syrup, thus thinning it, and it will be more inclined to gather mould. A well-known and simple, but not often observed, manner of keeping juice syrups is that with a glycerine enclosure—that is, a little glycerine floating on the top. If the juice or syrup be lighter than glycerine almond oil may be used, provided the liquid can be syphoned off or removed by means of a tap.

INFUSUM DIGITALIS, U.S.P.

THIS infusion is made by infusing 3 parts each of digitalis and cinnamon in 185 parts of water for two hours. After straining 15 parts of alcohol are added, and the bulk made up to 200 parts. Mr. L. G. Blakeslie points out (*Pharm. Era*) that, after infusing as the Pharmacopœia directs, a gelatinous fluid is the result, which can neither be strained nor filtered with any degree of success; moreover, the preparation has been proved almost inert so far as the digitalin is concerned, as careful experiments have shown that the tannic acid present in the cinnamon precipitates the digitalin [which Mr. Blakeslie unfortunately calls an alkaloid]. Although the British Pharmacopœia infusion is a weaker preparation, it is noteworthy that it has not the gelatinous character of the U.S.P. infusion.

INK FORMULÆ.

THE following formulæ are taken from Dieterich's Manual:—

Red Copying Ink.—Dissolve 50 parts of extract of logwood in a mortar in 750 parts of distilled water without the aid of heat; add 2 parts of chromate of potassium and set aside. After twenty-four hours add a solution of 3 parts of oxalic acid, 20 parts of oxalate of ammonium, and 40 parts of sulphate of aluminium in 200 parts of distilled water, and again set aside for twenty-four hours. Now raise it once to boiling in a bright copper kettle, add 50 parts of vinegar, and, after cooling, fill into bottles and cork. After a fortnight decant. This ink is red in thin layers, writes red, gives excellent copies in brownish colour, and turns blackish-brown upon the paper.

Violet Copying Ink.—Dissolve 40 parts of extract of logwood, 5 of oxalic acid, and 30 parts of sulphate of aluminium, without heat, in 800 parts of distilled water and 10 parts of glycerine; let stand twenty-four hours; then add a solution of 5 parts of bichromate of potassium in 100 parts of distilled water, and again set aside for twenty-four hours. Now raise the mixture once to boiling in a bright copper boiler, mix with it, while hot, 50 parts of wood vinegar, and, when cold, put into bottles. After a fortnight decant it from the sediment. In thin layers, this ink is reddish-violet; it writes dark-violet, and furnishes bluish-violet copies.

IODOFORM AND GLYCERINE.

MR. AUGUST BRUNNER, of Heidelberg, contributes a note to the *Pharmaceutische Centralhalle* in reference to the mixture of iodoform and glycerine, which is used for surgical purposes, such as for injecting into wounds, abscesses, and the like. The mixture is generally made by rubbing up 1 part of iodoform with 10 parts of glycerine. In the course of time the iodoform deposits and forms a hard cake at the bottom of the containing vessel. Mr. Brunner observed that when the iodoform was first shaken with water and the glycerine then added the iodoform was not deposited, but remained suspended for a considerable time—in fact, a good emulsion was formed. He believes that this is due to the fact that the air adhering to the powdered iodoform is only partly removed when it is mixed with water. The following formula for making the emulsion is suggested:—

	Parts
Powdered iodoform	1
Water	1
Glycerine	9

Put the iodoform in a bottle, and add the water and one part of glycerine, previously mixed, shake, and add the rest of the glycerine.



The following applications for Patents have been registered at the Patent Office.

- Belt.**—14,006.—October 15, 1887.—L. M. McEwan, trading as Mrs. Carpenter. Abdominal belts.
- Catheters.**—13,728.—October 10, 1887.—J. Banks. Catheters.
- Enemas and Syringes.**—13,797.—October 12, 1887.—W. Wiley. Syringes for hypodermic injections.—13,816. October 12, 1887.—T. F. Lynch. Improvements in enemas.
- Feeding Bottles.**—13,751.—October 11, 1887.—A. C. Henderson. Infants' feeding bottles.
- Filters.**—13,438.—October 4, 1887.—P. P. Kipping. Domestic and pocket filters.
- Food Warmer.**—14,087.—October 17, 1887.—A. V. Palmer. Apparatus for heating children's food and for other purposes.
- Inhaling Apparatus.**—13,248.—September 30, 1887.—E. G. B. Barlow. Apparatus for inhaling nitrous oxide gas.
- Ink Erasers.**—13,500.—October 5, 1887.—J. W. Tallmadge. Chemical fluid ink erasers.
- Litharge.**—13,409.—October 4, 1887.—S. C. Rowell and J. W. Newell. Manufacture of plumbic oxide or litharge, and apparatus employed therein.
- Puffs.**—13,470.—October 5, 1887.—Alberta M. F. Thatcher. Powder puffs and toilet cases containing powder puffs, &c.
- Quinine (Artificial).**—13,277.—September 30, 1887.—F. Nettlefold. The synthetical or artificial production of quinine or body of the chemical composition of quinine.
- Rheumatism, &c.**—13,364.—October 3, 1887.—V. F. Wood. Medicating woollen felt for curing rheumatism, lumbago, &c.—13,479.—October 5, 1887.—T. S. Mayhew.—Embrocation for relieving and curing gout, sciatica, neuralgia, influenza, and similar complaints.
- Saccharin.**—13,839.—October 12, 1887.—A. G. Salamon. Treatment of benzoyl sulphonic imide (commonly known as saccharin).
- Salts.**—13,695.—October 10, 1887.—C. Huggenberg. Processes for obtaining nitrites, chromates, manganates, permanganates, and arseniates.
- Varnish.**—13,885.—October 13, 1887.—A. G. Wass. Combination of substances for the manufacture of varnish, &c.
- Vinegar.**—13,840.—October 12, 1887.—A. H. Huntley. Process for the manufacture of yeast and vinegar.

Specifications of Patents recently published.

1887.

- 7,480. A. Drake and C. Hassam. Combined bronchial vapouriser and food warmer. 8d.
- 10,651. G. H. Jones. Artificial teeth, &c. 6d.
- 10,783. J. Sears. Compound preparation of cotton-seed oil. 4d.
- 11,320. G. Hartmann. Infants' feeding bottles. 6d.
- 1886.
- 14,182. G. Lee. Seltzogenes, &c. 8d.
- 14,190. P. H. Bracher. Obtaining distilled water. 8d.
- 14,405. A. L. Fry. Trusses. 8d.
- 14,468. E. Piot. Distilling apparatus. 8d.
- 15,182. E. P. Alexander. Obtaining mother liquors free from magnesian salts in the manufacture of carbonate of potash. 6d.

The following Patents have become void through non-payment of renewal fees:—

1880.

723. A. M. Clark (Miller). Tooth-brushes.
- 1,004. J. H. Johnson (Alder). Cyanides of the metals of the alkalies and alkaline earths.
- 1,007. A. E. Ragg. Lamps.
- 2,322. J. B. Freeman. Varnishes.

1883.

- 3,198. E. Brasier. Feeding bottles.
- 3,291. F. C. Blythe. Arsenite of soda.

Obituary.

[Notices of Marriages and Deaths are inserted free if sent with proper authentication.]

BLUNT.—On October 28, at 38 Newland, Northampton, John Henry Blunt, chemist and druggist. Aged 68. Mr. Blunt was the head of the well-known firm of Blunt & Sons, of the Parade, Northampton, and had been in declining health for some time, having suffered for upwards of six years. Mr. Blunt took up his abode in Northampton in 1846, and having studied botany he was led, about thirty years ago, to start business as an herbalist. This venture proved successful, and ultimately he took his sons into partnership, and secured extensive premises on the Parade. In municipal and other local matters the deceased took an active interest.

GIBSON.—On October 20, at Harrow Road, Mr. John Gibson, chemist and druggist. Aged 30.

GUNNEE.—On October 15, Mr. Samuel Gunnee, chemist and druggist, Chariot Street, Hull. Aged 64.

HAMMERTON.—On October 28, Martha, wife of Mr. E. Hammerton, chemist, High Street, Colchester.

HOLIDAY.—We regret to record the death of Mr. J. M. Holiday, who has carried on the business of a chemist and druggist for the past thirty-four years at Maidstone. The deceased gentleman, who had reached the age of seventy-eight, had been ailing for a long time, but no danger was apprehended until a few days ago, when he suddenly became worse, and died on Friday morning last. For many years deceased was hospital sergeant of the cavalry depot, Maidstone, and his death removes a well-known figure from that town. As evidence of the respect in which he was held, it may be mentioned that some time since, when it was known that financial cares threatened to embitter the latter years of his life, a few friends found no difficulty in obtaining means to relieve him from anxiety on that score.

KIMBER.—On October 20, Mr. Benjamin Tindall Kimber, chemist and druggist, Fonthill Road, London, N. Aged 36.

SIRETT.—On October 7, Mr. Henry Sirett, chemist and druggist, Brackley, Northamptonshire. Aged 76.

TODD.—On September 29, Mr. Richard Pearce Todd, chemist and druggist, late of Robertson Street, Hastings, Aged 67.

WILLIAMSON.—On October 21, Mr. Robert Williamson, chemist and druggist, Lancashire Street, Newton. Aged 69.

AN American physician gives a curious instance of carelessness in dispensing (*Med. Surg. Rep.*). He wrote the following prescription for a young lady:—

Hydrag. chlor. mitis gr. j.
Sacch. albæ gr. viij.

M. Div. in chart. No. viij. Sig.: One every hour.

The druggist gave the prescription to his assistant to compound, and while he was doing this, called out to him in joke, "Are you sure you are putting corrosive sublimate in that prescription of Doctor —'s?" At this the assistant threw away the powders of calomel he had prepared, and deliberately made up a new lot with corrosive sublimate substituted for the calomel!

CONSULS' REPORTS.

GREECE.

German Drug Imports. In drugs and chemicals the German trade with Greece has extended considerably of late, quinine, which, thanks to the Græco-German treaty, is free of duty, being principally derived from Germany. Ochre, until a short time ago imported from Marseilles, is now exclusively supplied by German manufacturers. The German coloured printing inks are much esteemed on account of their good quality. Varnish comes from Germany, as well as the, by no means unimportant, supply of wax.

JAPAN.

Industrial Development. The native industry in the Hyogo district is rapidly developing. New cotton-spinning mills are being erected in various localities, a hemp-mill has been started, silk piece-goods are now manufactured in the country; the glass ware and copper industries and the manufacture of carpets and rugs are growing to large proportions.

Imitation of Trade-marks. A tolerably good gauge of what is being done in the way of the establishment of new industries is afforded by the Industrial Museum in Osaka, a visit to which shows to how great an extent the manufacture, in the European style, of almost every sort of article required for personal or household use is being engaged in by the Japanese home makers. In connection with this, it ought to be noticed, however, that there seems to be a certain unscrupulousness on the part of the Japanese makers in the imitation of foreign labels and trade-marks, which appears to call for some law or international agreement to check it. In my trade report of last year, I referred to one instance where the authorities had interfered, on special representation, to suppress a counterfeit label; but it was understood then that there was no special legal provision in existence for the protection of foreign trade-marks.

Growing Drug Imports. Hyogo imported in 1886 72,036*l.* worth of drugs, against 41,837*l.* in 1885; of aniline dyes and paints 12,934*l.*, and of other dyes 28,912*l.* were imported in 1886, against a total of 25,085*l.* in 1885.

Drug Exports.

The exports from Hyogo in 1886 show the following results as compared with the preceding year:—

	1886		1885	
	tons	£	tons	£
Antimony ..	1,928	25,543	2,195	35,764
Camphor ..	2,328	114,789	1,393	59,082
Soap (washing) ..	1,871	8,567	1,991	10,890
Vegetable wax ..	1,199	51,643	1,183	57,003

Business at Yokohama. With the opening of the year 1886, the foreign trade of Yokohama and of Japan generally entered upon a new and brighter era. The value of the imports and exports reached over 9,250,000*l.* sterling; whereas in the preceding year they barely exceeded 8,000,000*l.*; in fact, the trade of 1886 was the largest by close on 1,000,000*l.* sterling of any in the whole record of Yokohama's twenty-eight years' existence as a port, the figures being as follows:—

	1886	1885	Increase
	£	£	£
Exports ..	5,308,136	4,178,282	1,129,854
Imports ..	4,131,993	3,894,984	237,009
Total ..	9,440,129	8,073,266	1,366,863

Medicine Imports. Amongst the miscellaneous foreign imports not considerable enough in value to rank as staples, the most noteworthy item during the past year was undoubtedly drugs and medicines, of which over 100,000*l.* worth were imported, as against only 60,000*l.* worth in 1885.

Drug Statistic. The following figures relate to the imports of drugs, &c., into Yokohama:—

	1883		1885	
		£		£
Mercury ..	112,731	10,413	—	—
Drugs and medicines ..	—	102,920	60,002	—
Dyes, aniline ..	1,468	25,044	19,185	—
Dyes and paints ..	—	26,000	29,441	—
Indigo ..	797	17,514	—	—
Logwood extract ..	944,423	13,418	—	—
Eastern drugs and medicines ..	—	20,744	15,186	—

The exports include:—

	1886		1885	
		£		£
Drugs and medicines ..	—	16,180	—	26,643
Fish oil ..	373,840	13,967	gal. 408,533	16,893
Peppermint oil ..	9,040	9,678	—	—

Distribution of Trade. Of the imports Great Britain and India send fully one-half, exceeding 2,000,000*l.* sterling; whilst of the exports they take barely one-thirteenth—leaving the so-called balance of trade in favour of Great Britain to the amount of over 1,600,000*l.* The United States receive more of the exports than all other countries together, while the imports from them remain nearly stationary at about one-eleventh of the total. France comes second in the list of customers, taking 1,500,000*l.* worth of exports, whilst sending only one-tenth of Great Britain's share of the imports.

Prospects. The expansion in the trade and shipping of the port disclosed by last year's returns is probably destined to be permanent. Foremost amongst the causes which have brought about this satisfactory result must be named the establishment of the currency on a specie basis at the beginning of the year. Whether the change from an irredeemable to a redeemable currency was effected in the best possible way is a question on which opinions differ; but the suffering caused by the transitional period of currency contraction is now nearly at an end; and with the restored confidence in the stability of the circulating medium, both the speculative activity of merchants and the purchasing power of the people have begun to revive. At no previous period in the history of the port has the prospect ahead seemed brighter.

Camphor Exports. The exports of camphor from Japan are returned as follows:—

	1886	1885
	Catties	Catties
China ..	3,077,851	2,783,810
United States ..	1,356,330	954,823
„ Kingdom ..	735,498	29,538
Germany ..	197,500	131,866
France ..	67,203	56,688
India ..	15,646	13,358
Total ..	5,450,033	3,970,083

Other Drugs. Of antimony Japan exported 3,298,549 catties in 1886 and 3,795,640 in 1885. Great Britain receives by far the largest part of the export of fish-wax (exports, 2,426,922 catties in 1886 and 3,150,422 in 1885), France and Germany receive the largest shipments, while sulphur (exports, 7,939,296 catties in 1886 and 12,466,646 the year before) is mostly sent to the United States, and a little to Australia.

MALTA.

Drug Exports. The principal drugs exported from Malta which are enumerated separately in the export statistics are anise, of which the production is estimated at 200,000 kilos., and which is mostly of a very good quality, and cummin, of which, in 1886, the crop was estimated at 130,000 kilos., and which is grown in two qualities, so-called "sweet" and sour cummin. About 250 bags, or 20,000 kilos. orange-peel are shipped from Malta every year. They are used in dyeing.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable, even for manufacturing purposes.

It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., November 3.

THE week has been a very quiet one so far as the drug and chemical markets are concerned, and few alterations of magnitude have occurred since our last report. At Tuesday's dysalsary sales shellac was rather firmer, and since then that firmness has increased, second orange being fully 1s. 6d. per cwt. dearer. Cutch, gambier, China galls, and Japan wax are also dearer, but turmeric is, perhaps, a shade lower. At the spice sales a quiet tone prevailed, Cochín ginger, arrowroot, and pepper being lower, but Penang cloves, capsicums, and chillies higher in price. To-day's drug sales were very extensive, the catalogues being burdened with about 500 lots of Vanilla. The fifteen catalogues were, however, all worked through by five o'clock. The principal alterations established are a decline in croton seed, ergot, ipecacuanha, medium quality vanilla, and strophanthus. Cardamoms, aloes, gamboge, dragons-blood, myrrh and gum benjamin are steady; musk, senna, and senega root dearer. Among other drugs which have changed since last week are, quillaia, guinea grains, and jaborandi leaves, which are lower; gum arabic and cocoa butter, which have advanced. Insect flowers and cubebs remain dear. Star anise oil is cheaper, and a good trade has been done in American oil of peppermint. Among chemicals, bleaching-powder and copper sulphate are advancing, but soda crystals are lower. Cotton-oil, linseed-oil, and petroleum are also lower, but brown rape-oil and Mogadore olive-oil close firmer.

A discussion occurred at to-day's drug sales in consequence of the cataloguing of a heavy quantity of vanilla. When the first parcel of this was reached, Mr. Preston (Hodgkinsons, Preston & King) complained that some years ago it had been resolved to sell vanilla, if there was a heavy quantity offered, on the Friday, because many druggists are not particularly interested in this article. Mr. Richard Barron supported this view, and protested against the sale of the vanilla. Mr. Dalton (Dalton & Young), the selling broker, submitted that the matter could not now be altered, as many vanilla buyers had come to town on purpose to attend this sale and ought not to be put to trouble. Mr. Brookes (Brookes & Green) was of the same opinion, and suggested that such articles as senna might as well be sold on another day if a heavy supply was catalogued. Ultimately the matter stood over and the sale was proceeded with.

It is announced that proceedings in bankruptcy have been instituted against a well-known city drug firm, and the announcement has taken the drug trade by surprise. Transactions in quinine are given as the cause of the proceedings, but it is understood that the deficiency is not very considerable.

A firm of wholesale druggists at Hamburg write that the paragraph relating to coca leaves in our report of October 29 does not name the exact price at which the 30 bales Bolivian leaves were sold. They themselves were the buyers of this parcel, and they send us the original broker's invoice to show that they paid at the rate of about 1s. 4½d. per lb. for these leaves. This proves that prices at Hamburg are not quite so low as the paragraph in question would lead to suppose.

ACID (CARBOLIC).—Sellers are trying hard to effect contracts for delivery all over 1888, but so far without much success.

ACID (CITRIC).—There is a slightly firmer tone in the market, 1s. 7½d. per lb. having been refused, but scarcely any business is doing. 1s. 7¾d. is the nearest quotation.

ACID (TARTARIC).—Dull and depressed, at 1s. 6½d. for foreign, and, nominally, 1s. 7d. for English.

ALUM.—Quiet and without much business, at 6l. for ground alum in bags, and 5l. 7s. 6d. for loose lumps.

ALKANET ROOT.—Two parcels, together 54 bales, were offered for sale, but no bid was made; 30s. per cwt. is named as the price of one parcel.

ALOES.—There is no change in the market. A fair assortment was offered for sale to-day, but a large proportion remained unsold, competition being slack. *Curaçao* realised 95s. for good but dark mixed liver; 21s. for fair but drossy Capey; and from 12s. to 18s. for very common. Two tins sold at the rate of 2s. 6d. per cwt. *Cape* aloes steady, and meet with good inquiry; good bright, 25s. to 24s. 6d.; drossy, soft and dull, 19s. 6d. to 16s. A few lots *Zinzibar* Hepatic, good dry, in skins, sold at 75s. to 100s. per cwt.; soft red new *Scotrine*, 85s. per cwt.

AMMONIA COMPOUNDS.—*Carbonate* remains very quiet, at 4d. per lb. less a discount. *Sal ammoniac* steady, at 34s. per cwt. for firsts, and 32s. for seconds. *Sulphate* steady, at 11l. 7s. 6d. for grey, 24 per cent., in London; 11l. 5s. at Hull; and 11l. 2s. 6d. at Leith.

AMBERGRIS.—Fine remains scarce. The best lot offered to-day, 9½ oz. fair pale grey, sold at 85s. per oz.; small yellow pieces at 47s. A few lots black ordinary were bought in at 35s. to 50s. per oz.

ANISE.—It is said that there will be but little *Star anise* forthcoming from China this season as the native holders intend to use the bulk of the crop for distilling; the stock of old seed is small in China. At the auctions 49 bales of Japanese false star anise of old import were bought in at 20s. per cwt. Russian anise unchanged, at 22s. to 24s. per cwt. Several parcels were offered to-day, but none found buyers.

ANNATTO.—Twenty-four baskets good bright fresh *Parí* roll are offering at 1s. 6d. per lb. Half-cwt. bright powder from *Java* was bought in to-day at 1s. 6d. per lb. nominally. Nine bags fairly bright *Ceylon* seed sold at 3d. per lb. The article shows no alteration.

ARSENIC.—A rather firm market. Business was done a few days ago at 11s. 6d. per cwt. for white powder, landed, but 11s. 3d. is now quoted.

ANTIMONY firm. Crude *Japanese* regulus antimony was bought in at 23l. per ton to-day.

BUCHU.—A good assortment was offered, but only a few lots sold at unaltered rates, viz., 3d. per lb. for good dark green round leaves, rather stalky; 2d. to 2½d. for fair to good.

BROMINE.—No price has yet been agreed upon by the German producers. *Potassium bromide* unaltered at 1s. 7d. per lb. nominally.

BALSAMS.—*Canada* unchanged, at from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. No *Copaiba* was offered at to-day's public sales. Privately, little business is reported, but the article remains firm, at 1s. 8½d. to 1s. 9d. for good *Maranham*. *Peruvian* balsam remains very depressed, at the nominal quotation of 4s. 6d. per lb. for good quality. Several lots were shown at to-day's auctions, but nothing was sold. *Tolu* very depressed.

BLEACHING-POWDER.—Our market is very firm, at 8l. 15s. per ton. The north of England markets are very firm at full rates, and hardly anything is obtainable for early delivery. The manufacturers have succeeded in forcing up the price for immediate as well as for forward delivery. The Tyne quotation for spot is 7l. 15s. to 7l. 17s. 6d. per ton.

BORAX.—The market is unaltered since our last report, second-hand parcels offering at 27l. to 28l. per ton. There is no doubt that the manufacturers contemplate raising their prices as soon as the supply in second hand becomes exhausted, but at present ample offers are still forthcoming from that quarter. At Liverpool a good business is reported at 27l. 10s. for good *English* refined (second hand), 24l. 10s. to 25l. for concentrated *Californian*, and 26l. 10s. for refined *Italian*, to arrive.

CAMPHOR.—The market for crude is very firm, but refined is still obtainable at last month's prices.

CALUMBA.—The supply remains far in excess of the

demand, and the article shows no improvement. Several parcels were offered to-day, but none sold. For small to bold root, rather dark with a few yellow pieces, 18s. per cwt. is asked, but much less would probably have to be taken.

CANELA ALBA.—Thirty-four bales small broken bark, rather dark, all more or less damaged, were shown; 22s. per cwt. is asked for this parcel.

CANTHARIDES.—The market has lately shown more weakness. The offerings of *Russi n* flies, especially of the old crop, are pretty liberal, and operators show no particular anxiety to buy. To-day one cask good flies was offered and bought in at 6s. 6d. per lb., 5s. 9d. being the price. A large quantity of *Chinese* cantharides are offering, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per lb. being asked for good flies.

CANNABIS INDICA.—Thirteen bales, consisting of dust and stalk, with a few dark tops, are held at 3d. per lb.

CHAMOMILES unchanged, and without business. New *Belgian* flowers are still held at 5l. 5s. to 7l., according to quality.

CARDAMOMS.—At to-day's auction the supply was not a very large one, but a very good demand prevailed, and the greater part of the lots catalogued sold at very steady rates. The following prices were paid for cardamoms of Ceylon growth:—*Mangalore* character, very good pale bleached medium to bold, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 7d.; small to medium yellow and somewhat country damaged, 1s. 9d. to 2s. per lb. *Malabar* character, good bold pale but not very heavy, 1s. 11d. to 2s.; small to medium, yellow to brown, partly damaged, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; small and light, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d.; husk and seed, 10d.; very small damaged, 3d. per lb.; seed sold at 1s. to 1s. 5d. per lb. The exports of cardamoms from Ceylon during the season, which closed on September 30, have been much larger than in any preceding year. The figures are:—1886-7, 321,560 lbs.; 1885-6, 236,056 lbs.; 1884-5, 152,405 lbs.; 1880-1, 16,069 lbs.

CIVET.—A few horns of indifferent quality were shown to-day, but none sold. Good quality remains scarce, and commands high rates.

COCA LEAVES.—Fair *Huanoco* and thin broken *Truxillo* bought in at 1s. 3d. per lb. nominally. There does not appear to be much demand for this article at present.

CONDURANGO.—A parcel of 35 bales just arrived from Colon was advertised for sale, but withdrawn, samples not having arrived in time to be shown.

CINCHONA.—A considerable quantity of *South American* bark was offered at to-day's drug sales, and found a ready market, especially for crown bark. Lima quills, good, partly mossy, more or less broken, sold at 2s. 1d.; ordinary at 5d. to 6d. per lb. Thin rusty quill sold at 9d. to 1s. 5d. 7 bales catalogued as "Calisaya," but of doubtful character, flat hard medium sized thick pieces, imported *via* Hamburg were withdrawn. The exports of cinchona from Ceylon during the season which closed on September 30 have remained nearly a million below the figures of the season 1885-6. This decrease, however, has not in any way improved the position of the market, as it is known that there must be a very heavy stock of bark ready for export in the island. The future of the article is quite uncertain. It is said that a considerable portion of this season's exports has been at the expense of capital, as the large proportion of root bark testifies. Cinchona is no longer the general cultivation it was; in some districts very few trees are left, but in others there is still a large available stock. The export figures are: Season 1886-7, 14,389,184 lbs.; 1885-6, 15,364,912 lbs.; 1884-5, 11,678,360 lbs.

COCOA BUTTER is considerably dearer. At the periodical public sales which took place on Tuesday 30 tons (in 2-cwt. cases) of Cadbury's brand were offered and disposed of, with good competition, beginning at 1s. 3½d., advancing to 1s. 5d., and closing at 1s. 4½d. per lb., a rise of 2½d. to 3½d. per lb. as compared with the previous auctions. On the same day about 35 tons of Van Houten's cocoa-butter were sold by public auction at Amsterdam. Quality A realised 81 to 84½ cents; B, 82½ to 86½ cents; and C, 85½ to 86 cents per half kilo. After the auction A resold at 87 cents, and yesterday holders asked 90 cents per half kilo.

COPPER SULPHATE.—The copper market having advanced,

this article has followed suit, 13l. 15s. to 14l. being quoted to-day.

CROTON SEED.—Our market is burdened with a stock far above its assimilating power, and at to-day's auctions the already very low rates experienced a further heavy decline, 12s. per cwt. being accepted for fair pale seed, and 9s. for dull mixed. Dark seed is held at 8s. per cwt., but found no buyer even at that figure.

CUBEBS.—At Amsterdam a parcel of 17 bales bold berries of mixed colour was offered for sale by tender last week. Six bales sold at a price which has not been made public, but is stated to have been under 25l. per cwt. On our market the article remains extremely scarce. Two bags grey and brown mixed berries, rather stalky, were bought in at 25l. per cwt.

CUMIN SEED.—*Malta* quiet; good bought in at 48s. per cwt.; 44s. was suggested for a rather ordinary lot.

COLOCYNTH.—27 packages *Turkish* apple were offered; fair pale, but very seedy quality, was bought in at 1s. 6d. per lb., ordinary shrivelled seedy fragments sold at 4½d. to 5d. per lb.

CUTCH.—Very firm with a rising tendency. Since our last report a fair quantity of *M M* slabs has been sold at 32s. to 32s. 6d. per cwt. spot, and a small parcel of *Star B* at 34s. 6d. per cwt.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—*First*s on the spot are practically unobtainable, 130l. 10s. to 131l. per ton being quoted. *Seconds*, 128l. to 128l. 10s. per ton.

CHIRETTA.—Two bales very poor quality sold at 2d. per lb.

COCCULUS INDICUS.—A small lot of 5 bags, partly damaged, sold at 8s. per cwt.

CUSCAS GRASS.—A considerable quantity was offered, but all bought in, ordinary quality at 12s. per cwt.

DRAGONS BLOOD.—A rather small quantity was offered to-day, and holders are very firm. Hard pipe, good bright colour, but damp externally, was bought in at 6l. 10s., an offer of 5l. 12s. 6d. being refused; blocky ditto sold at 5l. 12s. 6d. *Socotrine* good drop is held at 80s., and clean small siftings at 70s. per cwt.

DILL SEED.—Twenty bags sold at 13s. per cwt.

ERGOT OF RYE.—Business in this article has been practically at a standstill since our last report, and many holders would, no doubt, gladly sell at figures approaching the rates now nominally quoted. Others, again, are very sanguine about the future of the article. At to-day's auctions about half a ton good new *Spanish* was bought in at 2s. 3d. per lb.; 1½ cwt. old sold at 1s. 10d. per lb. *Russian* is nominally held at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. At the auctions fifteen bags wormy and old, but sifted, sold at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4½d. per lb.

FENUGREEK SEED.—The demand has slackened somewhat. At the auctions a parcel was bought in at 7l. 10s. per ton.

GALLS.—At the end of last week *Chinese* advanced to 60s. per cwt. on the spot, at which figure several parcels changed hands. Later in the week 60s. was refused, but the high prices asked have checked business. At to-day's auctions several parcels of *Turkish* galls were offered, but only a few lots sold, fine blue at 57s. per cwt.

GAMBIER has advanced since our last report. Sales have been made at 23s. 9d. first half October, 23s. 3d. to 23s. 4½d. for October shipment, and 22s. 4½d. to 22s. 6d. for November-December shipment. The Liverpool market closes firm at 25s. 1½d. for block on the spot; 36s. 6d. has been paid for cubes.

GAMBOGE.—Holders are very firm but the demand is not very brisk. Broken slightly blocky but good bright colored pipe was bought in at 10l. 10s., dull and drossy rather dark at 9l. Bright blocky pipe is held at 10l. 7s. 6d. per cwt.

GUM GUAIACUM.—Thirteen cases fairly good block were shown; 10d. per lb. was stated to be the price, but less would most likely be taken.

GLYCERINE remains very firm, although makers have made no alteration in their prices (83l. to 85l. for s.g. 1.260) as yet. One or two good orders might have the effect of causing an advance.

GUM MYRRH steady but unchanged, and without demand at the auction. 6l. 10s. is asked for good selected Aden, 95s. for sorts, 75s. for pale siftings, and 55s. for ordinary woody pickings.

GUM BENJAMIN.—Several large parcels of *Siam* gum were offered, and, although the inquiries do not range beyond an occasional few cases, the price keeps pretty steady. Good blocky almonds, partly small, are held at 20l.; seedy and blocky thirds at 10l.; ordinary woody siftings at 7l. 10s. *Sumatra* is in good demand; 6 cases fine bold grey almonds sold at 12l. 10s. to 12l. 12s. 6d.; brown bordered ditto at 11l. 5s. to 11l. 11s. 6d.; for fair grey seconds, false packed corners, 9l. was refused. *Penang* fair seconds, bold almond centres, drossy corners, sold (without reserve), at 6l. 17s. 6d. to 7l. 2s. 6d.; brown, badly false packed, 6l. 5s. to 6l. 7s. 6d.; 10 cases third *Palembang* sold at 70s. per cwt. At Amsterdam the market is weakening in consequence of larger arrivals and the falling off of export orders.

GUINEA GRAINS.—At Liverpool prices are again lower, closing at 18s. 6d. per cwt. Business has been done at that figure, but there are no inquiries at present.

GUM ARABIC.—Most varieties are still held at very high rates; *Barbary* gum has sold at 87s. 6d. per cwt. for Amrad, and 110s. per cwt. for new brown Barbary, being firm. Fine *East Indian* Amrad remains scarce. Privately there has been a demand for Amrad and Ghatti, but without much result, holders not being inclined to meet the market. In *Egyptian* gums there have been some sales at 87s. for Gehzirah. *Senegal* gum very scarce for the good varieties and tending higher; 7l. has been refused for Galam. At to-day's drug sales a very poor assortment of gum arabic was offered, and none was sold.

GINGER.—Of *Cochin* 747 packages were offered at the public sales, but only 222 of these found buyers, the market being dull and lower for rough ginger. Ordinary to medium, wormy rough sold at 18s. to 22s., cut ends, 28s. to 29s. per cwt.

HONEY.—A varied collection was offered for sale to-day, and a considerable proportion was sold at, if anything, somewhat lower rates. Fair pale candied *Californian* sold at 30s. to 32s.; 26 kegs *Chili*, pale but slightly dirty and fermented, were bought in at 30s.; 21 tins pale brown candied *English* bought in at 60s., much above value; liquid yellow *French* at 32s. Eighteen kegs fairly good pale *Irish* sold at 30s.; *Jamaica* brown, partly liquid, at 28s. to 30s.; ordinary and dark, at 20s. to 25s. Good thin *West Indian* held at 31s. per cwt.

INDIGO.—No changes of importance have occurred in the position of our market since the October auctions. The Calcutta season is expected to open in the middle of November.

IRISH MOSS.—Twenty bales dark bought in at 10s. per cwt, 9s. being the price. Fine quality sells well privately up to 17s. per cwt.

INSECT FLOWERS remain very firm. Trieste quotes to-day 211s. per cwt. for open, 223s. for half-open, and 236s. for closed flowers. About 19s. per cwt. must be added to these quotations to obtain the price laid down in London, usual terms.

IODINE.—A good trade doing at 9d. per lb. *Iodide of potassium* firm at 4s. 3d. per lb.

IPECACUANHA.—At to-day's drug sales 25 packages were offered, of which 20 sold at a decline of fully 3d. per lb. Good stout round root realised 4s. 10d. to 4s. 11d.; slightly damaged, 4s. 9d. to 4s. 10d.; badly damaged and mouldy, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 5d. per lb. One bale of unusual root, resembling the Carthagena variety, rather mouldy, sold at 1s. 10d. per lb.

ISINGLASS.—The periodical auctions were held on Tuesday, when about 91,613 lbs. were offered, consisting of 35,650 lbs. *Penang*, 29,619 lbs. *Brazil*, 17,372 lbs. *Bombay* and *Kurrachee*, 7,164 lbs. *Saigon*, 700 lbs. *China*, 381 lbs. *West Indian*, and 727 lbs. nondescript pickings. Prices ruled barely steady for *Penang*, which was not in much demand, although a few parcels of cake sold slightly dearer. Good Brazilian was slightly dearer, say 2d. per lb. in some instances, but commoner sorts were easy; *Bombay* from 1d. to 2d. dearer for

tongue and cake. The prices were:—*Penang*: Leaf, fine pale to low reddish, 4s.; ordinary thin, 1s. 6d.; skinny cake, 1s. 1d. *Bombay* and *Kurrachee*: New tongue, good to ordinary red, 2s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.; leaf, 3s. 1d. to 2s. 4d.; cake, good to common dark, 2s. 2d. to 10½d. *Saigon*: Leaf, long yellow to ordinary, 4s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. *Brazil*: Lump, first pile, 4s. 3d. to 3s. 6d.; second pile, 3s. 1d. to 2s. 6d.; third pile, 2s. 4d.; fourth pile, 2s.; tongue, good to thin, 3s. 7d. to 1s. 2d.; honeycomb, 2s. 1d. to 1s. 0d.; cake, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; pickings, 1s. 3d.; *Maranhão*: lump, 2s. 11d. to 2s.; tongue, fine to ordinary red, 3s. 9d. to 1s. 4d.; pickings, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. *West Indian*: Middlings, 2s. 7d.; ordinary, 2s. 2d. *China*: Fair leaf, 3s.

JABORANDI LEAVES.—The recent advance has resulted in heavy arrivals of Jaborandi leaves at Liverpool, and prices have again receded to the former level, from 6d. to 9d. per lb. having been accepted. *Pilocarpine* nominally unchanged.

KAMALA.—Several cases were shown, but no interest was manifested. For fair quality 5d. per lb. was demanded.

KOLA NUTS fetched good prices, 8½d. per lb. for good new *Jamaica*, 8½d. to 9½d. per lb. for small bright *Grenada*.

LEAD (ACETATE) still very scarce with a tendency to advance further. Good white *foreign* is quoted at 28l. per ton, *English* ditto at 31l., brown to grey 21l. to 24l.

LIME JUICE.—Good clean *Jamaica*, containing a small proportion of mucilage, is held at 1s. 2d. per gallon.

LIQUORICE ROOT.—Several parcels were offered, but the whole was bought in, good decorticated at 38s. per cwt. (35s. being suggested as the price). For 5 bales good bright partly bold root from *China* 25s. 6d. was refused, another lot was bought in at 16s. and dull mouldy root at 4s. 3d. per cwt. The Smyrna makers of liquorice paste have reduced their prices. Good to fine brands are now quoted at 33s. to 43s. 6d. per cwt.

MATICO.—Two bales good green but broken leaf sold at 1s. 2d. per lb.

MUSK.—Our stock has now dwindled to very small proportions. At to-day's auctions, 10 caddies *Tonquin*, imported *via* America, old-fashioned shape, with top and underskin (6 first, 1 second, and 3 third pile), were taken out by the broker, who refused to name a price, saying that the lot was held above the present range of prices. This shows that the owners expect higher rates to rule. A large quantity of *grain* musk was sold, partly without reserve, ordinary at 25s. to 45s.; *Assam* bought in at 50s.; *Tonquin* at 70s. per oz. Two tins *Nepaul* pods, ordinary hard, unsorted and broken, sold without reserve at 41s. per oz., bidding starting at 5s. Empty *Cubardine* pods sold at 4s. 2d. per oz. Two cases arrived yesterday from Calcutta per *City of Bombay*.

OPIUM.—Since our last report there has been more business doing on the London market, *Persian* opium especially having been in demand for export to China. At the drug sales four cases *Persian*, per Hong Kong steamer, stated to contain 11:20 per cent. of morphia, were bought in at 17s. per lb., no bid being made, and one case at 9s. per lb. Another lot of four cases very inferior sold at 1s. 3d. to 5s. per lb., without reserve. We hear from Smyrna that a firmer tone prevails on that market, owing to export orders, principally for American manufacturers. A considerable quantity of old *Karahissar* had changed hands at the parity of 12s. 1d. to 14s. 3d. per lb., according to quality. The market closed very firm on October 22, with few sellers, and buyers of new examined opium at 16s. 3d. per lb., at which price, however, nothing was obtainable. Soft old *Karahissar* was quoted at 15s. per lb. The arrivals were 612 cases against 3,393 on the corresponding date of 1886.

Advices from the growing-districts, dated October 18, announce the continuation of the heat and drought, and it is said that the situation almost precisely resembles that which prevailed during the sowing of the last crop. The Dutch Government, it is now announced, has succeeded in placing the whole of its orders at the new conditions which we described in a recent article, but it has been obliged to buy old as well as new opium. It is said that delivery must be made at Amsterdam in December, and that therefore the goods will have to leave Smyrna in the middle of November at the latest.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—Steady, but without much business. In America the market has advanced, and it is rumoured that our supplies from Newfoundland will be extremely restricted this season, as it no longer pays to manufacture this variety at the rates now current.

OIL (CASTOR).—Firm, at 4½d. per lb. for fine *Calcutta*, and 2½d. for seconds. Several lots were offered at the drug sales, but did not sell at the auctions. At Liverpool the market closes steady, at 2½d. for good *Calcutta* seconds, spot and to arrive, 2½d. for Bombay, 2½d. for Madras in casks, and 2½d. ex-quay for first pressure French, to arrive. On October 11 the *Calcutta* market closed with a very firm tone, and quotations, owing to the temporary scarcity of the raw material, had advanced.

OILS (FIXED).—*Cocoonut* steady, but without material change. *Ceylon*, 23l. 15s. to 24l.; fine *Cochin*, 32l.; *Mauritius*, 25l. 10s. *Cotton* slightly easier; 16l. 15s. for crude, and 19l. 10s. for refined; *Hull* spot, 19l. *Linseed* lower; 19l. 2s. 6d. to 19l. 7s. 6d. spot, according to packing; *Hull*, 18l. 12s. 6d. *Olive*; *Mogadore* dearer, at 32l. 10s. to 33l.; *Sicilian*, 35l.; *Spanish*, nominally 37l. *Palm* unchanged at 22l. for fine *Lagos*. *Petroleum*: *American* easier, 5½d. to 5¾d.; *December*, 5¾d.; *Russian* dearer since last week, but closes dull, at 5½d. to 5¾d. *Rape*, 25l. to 25l. 10s. for English refined; brown dearer, at 23l. 15s. to 24l. *Turpentine* steady; 26s. 9d. spot; 27s. November–December; 27s. 3d. January–April.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—*Star anise* cheaper on the spot; 60 cases have sold at 7s., and 6s. 4d. has been accepted for forward delivery c.i.f. terms. It is said that the bulk of the new crop of star anise in China will be used for distilling this year. In *Bergamot* slightly more business has been doing, but 7s. 3d. per lb. will still buy good quality. Seventeen bottles good green *Cajaput* bought in at 3s. 6d. *Caraway* oil is somewhat cheaper, in sympathy with the position of the seed. *Cassia* remains very dull at 2s. 7½d. per lb. The primary markets are very quiet, and according to the latest mail advices lower prices were anticipated in China. *Cinnamon* oil has been shipped from Ceylon during the season 1886–7 to the extent of 62,668 oz., the smallest shipments since 1880. Last season the exports were 139,094 oz. and in 1884–5 117,023 oz. Good oil may be had at 1s. 6d. per oz. *Cinnamon leaf* dull at 1½d. per oz. The total exports of *citronella* oil from Ceylon during the season which closed on October 1 have been 8,371,426 oz., against 6,461,278 oz. in 1885–6, 5,721,112 oz. in 1884–5, and only 1,760,677 oz. in 1880–1. The article remains neglected at ¾d. to 1½d. for native brands. *Cloves* 6s. 3d. to 6s. 6d. per lb. For oil of *cubeb*s higher prices rule, owing to the increased value of the drug. *Eucalyptus* quoted at 3s. 6d. per lb. There has been more inquiry for *Lemon*, and a fair business is doing; prices still remain unchanged, however, at 4s. 9d. to 5s. for commercial. *Lemongrass* quiet, at 1¾d. to 2d. per oz. Oil of *limes* sold at 2s. 3d. per lb.; more is obtainable at that price. *Otto of Rose*: At the end of last week 9 cases arrived from Constantinople. The article is quiet, say at 22s. 6d. to 23s. per oz. for fine. *Peppermint* oil: *American* oil is slightly steadier, with sales of the H. G. H. brand at 12s. 7½d. to 12s. 9d. per lb. for fair quantities. *Japanese* oil bought in at 4s. 3d. to 6s. per lb. at the drug sales. *Fisher's Patchouly* oil bought in at 3s. 3d. per oz. nominally. *Ylang-Ylang* quiet.

PATCHOULY LEAVES.—A shipment of 58 bales has just been received, and was offered at the auctions to-day. Although the article is so scarce no bids were made, and the whole was bought in; good-flavoured brown leaves, sifted and without stalk, at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb.; stalky, partly damaged, at 9d. per lb.; one case dull brown leaves, rather damp, sold at 9½d. per lb.

QUININE quite neglected, but without alteration in the official quotations; *Howard's* brand is still held at 2s. 3d. for bottles, 2s. 1d. for bulk; *Pelletier's* at 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d., and *German* in bulk at 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4d. per oz. At the sales to-day 1,534 ounces unbleached, said to be B & S brand, lying at Glasgow, were offered at London terms and delivered here. From 6d. to 11d. per oz. was offered, but the parcel was bought in at 1s. per oz., said to be the price.

ROSE LEAVES.—7 cwt. good *German* held at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

QUILLAIA.—The position of this article is rather quiet; business has been done at slightly easier rates—say 14l. 10s. to 14l. 15s. per ton for good. It is said that on the Continent stocks have become much lighter recently.

QUICKSILVER.—Importers' price unchanged, at 7l. 15s.; second-hand firmer at 7l. 13s. to 7l. 14s. *Mercurials* unchanged.

RHUBARB.—The market is depressed, and but a small part of the fair quantity catalogued was sold. *Shensi*, fine small druggists' root for trimming, fine fracture, 2s. 10d.; small to bold round root, good pink fracture, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 9d.; medium to bold flat, rather woody, 1s. 7d.; small round dull to common dark wormy, 1s. to 5½d.; *High dried*, ordinary to fair but wormy, 6d. to 9d. per lb.

SEEDLAC remains firm at the late advance, and further sales have been made of good *Kurrachee* at 36s., and dusty at 30s. to 30s. 6d. per cwt.

SARSAPARILLA.—No good grey *Jamaica* root was offered at the sales. The price remains firm, at 2s. to 2s. 1d. per lb. Fair red native *Jamaica* sold at 1s. 1d. to 1s. Good *Honduras* held at 1s. to 1s. 1d.; damaged sold at 9½d. per lb.

SENNA.—There was but a small supply of *Tinnevely*, which sold at an advance of about ½d. per lb.; good green bold at 7½d.; fair small to medium greenish, 4d. to 5½d.; ordinary thin to medium, 1½d. to 3¾d. *Alexandrian* neglected; several parcels shown, but no sales made.

SENEGA.—There is now no doubt that very little new root has been dug in the producing districts of the United States and British America, the highest estimate of Western root being half an average crop. There has been a fair demand here, and 1s. 9d. per lb. has been paid for good bright root, 1s. 10d. to 2s. per lb. being now asked.

STROPHANTHUS.—About 540 lbs. of seed were advertised for sale at to-day's auctions, but 100 lbs. of them had not arrived. Of the remainder only 40 lbs. medium green quality sold, "without reserve," at 18s. to 21s. per lb., partly for export. The rest was bought in. It is said that last year African firms contracted for the supply of seed this year as low as 8s. to 9s. per lb., and that prices are likely to fall still lower. A very good specimen of *Kombé* strophanthus from the Niger district has recently come under our notice.

SAFFRON.—The new crop is quoted at 47s. 6d. to 50s. for fine Valencia. It is said that prices are tending rather firmer again.

SOY.—Tending lower. *China* soy has changed hands at 1s. 9½d. per gallon.

SPICES.—*Arrowroot* again lower and very neglected; medium St. Vincent at 2½d., good Natal at 3d. per lb. *Cassia buds*; 43s. accepted for a small lot, offered "without reserve." In *Cassia Lignea* a good private business has been done at 22s. per cwt., the lowest price of last week's auctions. *Capsicums* dearer; 60s. to 61s. for fine bright Natal. *Chillies* are slightly higher at 26s. 6d. per cwt. for fair Zanzibar. Zanzibar *Cloves* unchanged, fair 11½d., Penang very firm at 12½d. A small lot of fine bright pale cloves from Ceylon sold at 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d. per lb. *Mace* steady. *Nutmegs* fairly steady Bombay; (82 to 106) 2s. 10d. to 2s. 4d., West Indian (70 to 125) 3s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. *Pepper* quiet; black West Coast easier at 7½d. to 7¾d., Aleppy 8¾d., white ½d. per lb. lower. Penang 10½d. to 10¾d., Singapore 12¾d. per lb. *Pimento* unchanged, at 2d. to 2½d. for ordinary to fine.

SHELLAC.—Early this week the monthly statistics relating to the London movements in the article were published. They are as satisfactory as could be expected, showing a diminution of our stock by nearly 2,000 cases. The *Calcutta* exports are also small, having been 2,200 cwts. for October, against 9,400 cwts. in October, 1886. These figures caused a firmer tone to prevail at the weekly auctions, at which, however, only 248 cases were offered, the bulk of which sold at an advance of 1s. per cwt. for second orange. This variety realised: unworked, KH in diamond, 47s. to 47s. 6d.; TN in diamond, 47s. 6d.; garnet TA, 39s. 6d.; AC unworked, 41s.; button firsts, 60s.; seconds, 47s. 6d.; thirds, 44s. 6d. down to 40s. per cwt. The private transactions include TN second orange spot, at 46s. to 47s.; ditto, November–January shipment, 47s. 6d. per cwt.; and near at hand, 47s. c.i.f. AC

garnet lac has been sold at 41s. per cwt. on the spot, and first *button* also at 60s. per cwt.

SODA COMPOUNDS.—*Ash* is in good demand, at 1½ to 1¼ per degree. *Bicarbonate* quiet, with business at 6½ 5s. The trade in *Caustic* has been more restricted, but quotations are very well maintained, at 7½ 5s. for cream and 7½ 10s. for 60 per cent. white. *Crystals* sell fairly well at slightly easier rates—viz. 5½s. per cwt. in London, and 45s. to 46s. on the Tyne. *Nitrate* has declined further since our last report, but at the low values a good many purchasers have appeared, and the article closes steady at 8½ 15s.

TURMERIC.—At auction a large quantity—viz. 1,374 packages—was offered, but only about one-fourth sold at cheap prices: *Madras* wormy finger, small to bold, 7s. to 8s.; bulbs, partly split and wormy, 6s. 6d. to 7s. per cwt. At Calcutta, on October 11, large arrivals had come to hand and caused a fall in the market. The stock, notwithstanding considerable shipments, amounted to between 12,000 and 13,000 maunds.

VANILLA.—There have been heavy arrivals of the new season's beans, which appear, on the whole, to be of very good quality. On Monday 72 cases arrived from Mauritius, *viâ* Marseilles. Part of this shipment was offered at auction to-day, when, altogether, over 500 tins were catalogued. The bulk of this supply sold at first very firm, and even slightly dearer for good, but later on prices for short beans declined from 1s. to 2s. per lb. The following prices were obtained:—7 to 8 in., 24s. to 24s. 6d.; 7½ to 8 in., 21s.; 7 to 7½ in., 16s. to 19s.; 7 in., 18s.; 6½ in., 11s. to 16s. 6d.; 6 to 6½ in., 15s. to 15s. 6d.; 6 in., 12s. to 15s.; 6 to 7 in., 12s. 6d. to 15s.; 6 to 6½ in., 12s. 6d. to 15s.; 5½ to 6 in., 11s. to 13s. 6d.; 5 to 6 in., 10s. 6d. to 15s.; 10s. 6d. to 15s.; 4 to 5 in., 9s. 6d.; mouldy and various, 6s. to 9s.

WAX (CARNAUBA).—Supplies are plentiful, and the prices range from 40s. for grey to 57s. 6d. per cwt. for good yellow.

WAX (BEES') steady and in fair demand. *Jamaica*: Good orange, 5½ 12s. 6d.; red, 5½ 7s. 6d.; chocolate and brown, 5½ 2s. 6d. to 5½ 5s.; dark, 5½; *Ceylon*: Dull grey, 82s. 6d.

WAX (JAPAN).—We hear that business has been done at 60s. per cwt., and it seems as if the price will be further advanced by the speculators. So far as London is concerned the statistical position certainly appears favourable to higher rates.

AMERICAN CABLEGRAM.

NEW YORK, November 3.

QUININE.—The domestic manufacturers, who were being heavily undersold by German brands, have reduced their quotations two cents per oz.

STENOCARPINE.—[Our correspondent's message concerning this article is referred to on another page.]

STARCH is an excellent diluent for the hypophosphites in powder form. Some doctors prefer to give the hypophosphites in that way, but as they are highly deliquescent an absorbent is required. Arrowroot is the best form of starch to use; it forms a nice-looking granular powder with the hypophosphites.

SACCHARIN when fused with sodium hydrate is decomposed, and salicylate of soda is contained in the mass formed. This on neutralisation with hydrochloric acid yields with ferric salts the intense violet coloration which is so characteristic of salicylic acid. From this it is obvious how saccharin may be detected.

STILL ANOTHER suggestion for an adhesive gum for labels. It is a modification of the tragacanth paste which is so useful for mounting botanical specimens. Soak 30 grammes of tragacanth in a little water until it is fully swelled, beat it up to the consistence of a thick homogeneous mucilage, and mix this with a mucilage made from 120 grammes of acacia, and pass the whole through a piece of "tammy." Add to this 120 cc. of glycerine, in which 2-5 grammes of powdered thymol has previously been shaken up, and lastly make the whole up to 1 litre by measure.

LONDON DRUG STATISTICS.

The following figures refer to the stocks of the principal drugs in the Port of London on October 31, 1887, and to the imports and deliveries from January 1 to October 31, as compared with the same period of the preceding year:—

Article	Stocks		Imported		Delivered	
	1887	1886	1887	1886	1887	1886
Aloes .....cs	5,638	4,992	4,563	4,247	4,141	3,734
"kegs	7	12	57	62	12	12
"gourds	30	70	507	610	723	700
Anise, Star ...chts	186	255	217	98	270	217
Arrowroot ....cks	14,795	13,510	15,309	14,301	12,384	12,154
"bxs & tins	9,072	3,883	9,604	4,502	5,037	3,683
Balsams .....cks, &c.	631	723	607	878	667	723
Bark, Medicinal						
cks & cs	10,756	9,249	25,749	25,467	22,855	20,975
srns, &c.	48,556	60,369	35,782	34,705	41,292	32,076
Borax .....pkgs	1,144	870	2,475	1,596	1,013	1,414
Calumba	2,587	1,497	3,181	2,014	2,121	1,446
Camphor	3,580	4,130	4,465	4,923	7,051	7,916
Cardamoms .chts	854	685	3,196	2,429	3,074	2,570
Cochineal ....srns	5,231	6,766	3,046	4,476	4,677	5,396
Coccol. Ind. bgs, &c.	310	498	299	579	429	423
Cream of Tartar cks	12	11	44	78	43	115
Cubebs .....bgs	29	227	328	583	391	367
Dragon's Blood cks	105	167	108	149	135	112
Galls, China....cs	2,237	4,353	3,828	6,541	4,149	5,466
Trky & Prsn sks	4,879	4,564	6,195	9,773	5,237	7,964
Gum.....						
Ammoniac pkgs	267	250	128	308	146	203
Animi & Copal						
pkgs	3,211	6,402	5,748	8,363	7,473	8,155
Arabic.....	9,186	14,728	15,034	28,855	20,372	22,756
Asafetida....	466	1,064	72	917	383	663
Benjamin	1,927	1,801	1,998	2,476	1,708	2,260
Damar	3,474	6,314	4,153	8,075	5,486	6,143
Galbanum....	—	9	1	—	1	6
Gamboge	129	143	216	417	290	413
Guaiacum....	82	50	48	102	42	90
Kino	65	122	29	14	55	49
Kowrie .....tns	547	1,063	1,406	1,380	1,859	2,360
Mastic .....pkgs	105	144	10	73	31	48
Myrrh.....	504	465	747	433	471	353
Olibanum	3,903	4,282	5,981	4,325	5,535	4,926
Sandarac	502	1,208	1,038	1,335	1,382	1,544
Tragacanth	1,105	917	2,320	1,888	1,814	1,820
Indiarubber, E.I.						
tons	287	110	669	505	479	571
Madagascar..	7	14	56	70	57	85
S. American....	148	34	301	135	188	198
Mozambique....	605	308	978	747	638	658
African, &c....	5	1	7	13	2	13
Total	1,052	467	2,011	1,471	1,364	1,525
Indigo, East Indian						
chts	10,255	11,883	17,508	20,686	17,856	17,938
" Spanish srns	1,745	2,251	3,757	4,104	3,941	3,452
Ipecacuanha						
cks & bgs	116	167	476	471	466	486
Jalap .....bls	203	170	114	174	65	201
Lac Dye .....chts	7,221	7,882	28	494	618	607
Myrabolans ....tns	10,541	7,671	11,453	11,333	8,866	9,929
Nux Vomica pkgs	527	1,184	603	1,789	735	1,589
Oils—						
Anise .....cs	149	217	124	277	141	344
Cassia .....cs	175	125	210	277	132	316
Castor .....cks	861	562	1,313	824	1,048	798
"cs	7,452	4,297	9,181	8,153	8,167	10,713
Coccol-nut....tns	1,898	93	4,383	3,618	3,788	4,599
Olive .....cks, &c.	582	1,382	3,679	9,022	3,955	8,955
Palm .....tns	236	175	184	275	127	351
Opium .....chts, &c.	2,180	2,059	1,622	980	1,590	1,168
Rhubarb.....chts	1,242	1,835	996	1,375	1,806	1,591
Safflower .....pkgs	446	447	—	346	265	265
Saltpetre .....tons	746	1,596	4,411	5,645	4,656	6,813
Soda Nitrate....tons	1,224	5,542	10,749	12,617	14,584	12,403
Sarsaparilla....bls	400	521	1,155	1,279	1,115	1,183
Senna bls, &c.	2,360	826	5,519	2,017	4,122	1,892
Shellac, Orange						
chts, &c.	41,850	37,153	30,717	26,241	25,713	25,331
Garnet,	16,840	11,681	11,738	6,801	6,517	7,185
Button,	12,109	11,904	8,430	11,588	7,819	9,312
Total	70,799	60,738	50,885	44,630	40,049	41,628
Sticklac, ..chts, &c.	3,886	4,450	774	714	996	1,641
"tns	567	1,364	19,148	11,833	11,226	11,503
Cutch .....tns	674	2,349	1,900	3,494	2,565	3,264
Turmeric .....tns	2,388	1,534	2,078	2,429	1,562	1,770
Vermilion,chts, &c.	25	53	84	129	113	76
Wax, bees' ..bls & srns	972	1,322	872	1,347	949	1,155
"cks & cs	1,478	1,569	2,461	2,551	2,301	2,452
"cakes	18	145	26	157	—	16
Wax, Japan...pkgs	691	1,626	727	1,938	1,383	1,943



Memoranda for Correspondents.

Always send your proper name and address: we do not publish them unless you wish.

Write on one side of the paper only; write early; and devote a separate sheet of paper to each query if you ask more than one, or if you are writing about other matters at the same time.

If you send us newspapers, please mark what you wish us to read.

Ask us anything of pharmaceutical interest: we shall do our best to reply.

Before writing for formulae consult the last volume, if you have it.

Letters, queries, &c., not noticed in this issue will, if possible, be attended to next week.

Fireworks.

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

November 2, 1887.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives presents his compliments to the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and will feel obliged by his inserting the following:—

With reference to a recent accident by an explosion of a description of firework known as a "Maroon," which had been purchased by two boys, attention is directed to the fact that, by the 31st and 39th sections of the Explosives Act, 1875, the selling of any explosive (including fireworks) to any child apparently under the age of thirteen years is prohibited, under a penalty of 5*l.*; and a similar penalty attaches to the throwing, casting, or firing of any firework in or into any highway, street, thoroughfare, or public place (sec. 80).

The Bright Side.

SIR,—Of recent times much has been written and said concerning the decadence of the trade in which your readers are most interested, and it must be admitted that the complaints are not without foundation; but to my mind the question is generally considered too narrowly and too dolefully. The facts seem to be overlooked that fierce competition has played havoc with all trades throughout the world, that reduced profits are the rule, and that large percentages of profit are in all probability gone for ever. Instead, therefore, of following in the wake of the writers, poets, and artists whose lamentations take up so much of your correspondence columns, I think it more profitable to add to the number of those who think hopefully of the future and take steps to encourage those of our brethren who work hard and find difficulty in making both ends meet.

The question of had times and the best ways of improving them is, I admit, beyond my capacity to grapple with; but as I have succeeded in increasing my own business steadily for some time past, I think it possible that some account of the means I have adopted may be interesting to a few who have not been so fortunate, and perhaps others, who have been more successful than I, may be induced to say something of the methods they have adopted with success.

I should premise by stating that my main object has been to make money honestly, and that I never had much sympathy with those who imagine that ours is a profession which should not be contaminated by trade arts, and choose to forego profit rather than deviate from the path which they consider professional and dignified. Excellence of material, excellence of workmanship, and the utmost possible publicity should, in my opinion, be the watchword of the chemist, and I strongly advise my brethren to disregard the counsel recently given from the platform to the effect that advertisement should be avoided. The customer, as a rule, is more prone to compare our reasonable charges with those of the "stores" than to notice the difference in the qualities of the respective goods, and many a chemist would starve if

he were to wait with folded hands until the public discovered for themselves the higher value of his goods.

I spent the greatest available amount of money and pains in making my shop attractive in its general appearance. In the window and other prominent parts were placed new and interesting goods, especially such as were likely to be noticed by any member of the profession who might chance to come my way. As many things as possible were placed outside the glass cases where they could be picked up and examined, and your readers might be surprised did they know how much saccharin I have disposed of in that way since the middle of last month.

On several occasions it has paid me to cultivate the goodwill of those medical practitioners who dispense their own medicines instead of neglecting them in favour of those who write prescriptions. One can afford to send them a new patient occasionally, and they highly appreciate such little attentions as sending them specimens of new remedies as they come to the fore, which I have managed to do at no expense to myself.

My shop being situated near to some of the best wholesale houses, it has been a rule with me to keep but a small stock of such goods as deteriorate by keeping, and to refill some of my bottles and drawers day by day; and in the case of rare and expensive articles I have kept no stock at all. Yet I feel sure that on the whole I have profited considerably by making it known to both the customer and the physician that such and such an ingredient has been specially procured for his prescription without appreciable loss of time, and would be so procured fresh from the laboratory of the maker each time it might be required.

Another of my points was to establish the sale of good sound proprietary articles by advertising; not by paying large sums to newspaper proprietors, but by a judicious distribution of samples of the articles in my own immediate neighbourhood. These samples were well got up, and many of them that were not used at the time were put aside, re-examined, and eventually made use of. Tooth-powders, lozenges, tablets and such like goods lend themselves most readily to this effective style of advertising, at no very great cost.

And when the reputation of my own specialties was fairly established, I found I was able to keep myself well advertised at even less expense than that referred to above, for an enterprising American firm located in London provided me with a practically unlimited supply of samples of their own very excellent manufactures, and capped their liberality by including circulars and pamphlets relating to the goods, and including notices of my own preparations. By this means I obtained admirable advertisement at a cost, to me, of a few sheets of demy wrapping-paper and some ink. To give one instance. The firm in question offered an excellent toilet soap; the price was rather high, but I took a dozen tablets, and received in addition a dozen miniature samples for gratuitous distribution. Three days later I ordered a larger supply, and forwarded with my order a draft of a circular which I thought suitable to send out with the samples. The result was that in four and a half weeks I had disposed of eleven dozens of the soap, at a net profit of 3*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, and in many cases where the samples did not lead to direct business they did so indirectly. This transaction is to be continued on a more extended scale.

This being my experience, I am surprised to learn from the courteous representative of this firm that he has great difficulty in inducing chemists to venture to do business with him on similar terms, some of them treating him with positive rudeness, and others looking quite relieved when he desists from his unsuccessful attempts to do business and takes up his hat to depart. Such a chemist stands in the position of a waggoner who not only fails to use his own shoulder to get the wheel out of the rut, but refuses the assistance of Jove when it is offered.

Let me, in conclusion, remind those of my brethren who have difficulty in paying their way that times have often been very bad, but that never, as yet, have they been so bad as to prevent energetic men from making fortunes; and if any of your readers suppose I am in possession of information likely to be of service to them, let them write and ask whatever questions they will of,

Sir, yours very truly,

20 Royal Exchange, London.

R. H. C. (190/38.)

Newspaper Prescribing.

SIR,—A newspaper cutting, of which the following is a copy, has been sent to me from a country customer to be dispensed, as a preventive of small-pox, fever, &c.:—

Phenic acid water of 4 per cent. acid strength.

A tablespoonful to be put into half a tumbler of water sweetened with sugar, and drunk every morning. The dose may be repeated in the evening if considered necessary.

As the recipe has probably had a wide circulation I shall be glad to know if any of your readers have met with it. I may state we sent out the solution, but with a poison label of printed directions for use for sprinkling, &c., as a disinfectant, and with a note explaining the matter, and advising that the solution be not taken internally, or, if so, only in doses of 20 drops for an adult.

Respectfully yours,

Sheffield, November 1.

J. H. BRADWALL.

The Oxalic Acid "Explosion."

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. "Stuck Fast" (18/134) may feel relieved to learn that the accident at Coventry with oxalic acid was caused through the boy's ignorance of the nature of the acid he was using. He, I have no doubt, wishing to do his work well, introduced a little common chalk into the bottle with the acid, and then filled it up with water and corked it, and while he was shaking it the bottle exploded, much to his astonishment. He collected the pieces of his fingers and went off to the hospital. Who will dare to say "edgекation" is not necessary? Had your humble servant a-been a-peepin' at him, I dare say the accident would not have happened.

Yours faithfully,

October 31.

PEEPING TOM. (189/54.)

The Irish Pharmacy Act.

SIR,—Permit me through your columns to address Irish pharmacists with a view to arouse them to a danger from a quarter least expected. It is an open secret that the promised deputation of chemists and druggists from Belfast will gain many a friendly ear on the Council. It is time licentiates should speak out on this subject of perpetuating chemists and druggists, lest these members of Council should snatch a vote on a division for such an object. I hold the Council can only support one grade (*i.e.*, pharmaceutical chemists), which was the reading of the Act by the original Council, section 31 securing the status and privileges to those chemists and druggists who were practising as such at the time of the passing of the Act, and if I add apothecaries, I hold the Pharmacy Act entitles these only to sell poisons, and to these only poisons are to be entrusted.

I also hold there is not room in Ireland for two grades. By the advocates of the second grade system a comparison has been drawn between the number of "post towns" and the number of licentiates for two reasons: first, to show that Ireland can support a second grade, and, secondly, to show the disadvantages the public labour under in obtaining poisons. I may well ask them, are they serious in these contentions, or do they speak with any knowledge of country towns (which, alas! are getting beautifully less), or do they know the extent of the majority of these "post towns," most of which consist of a court-house, police barracks, places of worship, and post-office, the greater portion of the population being comprised of labouring classes and small farmers, who come under the poor law system and receive their medicines from the dispensary doctor? Do they expect chemists to repair to such places? No, not even if there were ten times as many qualified men. And then, as to increasing the facility of the public getting poisons—I speak from experience of country business—what will be the result of such a grade? It will be that every intelligent grocer in moderate-sized country towns will come up and get registered, and I ask anyone with even a slight knowledge of country towns how much of his time will he devote to this branch of his business, he having his drapery counter, his grocery and spirit counter, his provision counter, and his farm (for such is the general combination in the country)? His apprentices will be entrusted with the sale of poisons which will be retailed out at the same rate and profit as sugar and tobacco.

Is this the grade the Council are going to establish and perpetuate? I challenge the Council to take a vote of their licentiates, and I should warn members to note the men who support the grade. Is it necessary to remind the Council that the majority of their licentiates are in business for themselves, and that others are languishing (more or less) to take one. I notice men are coming up in greater numbers for examination now than at any other time of the Society's history. I await the result of the deputation with much interest.

Faithfully yours,

A DUBLIN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST. (190/36.)

Deputation to Irish Pharmaceutical Council.

SIR,—Under the above heading a letter appeared in your journal of last week professing to give the census of the drug trade here, and as its contents are utterly false I would ask space to correct same.

We have in the town of Belfast, presently keeping open shop, seventeen apothecaries and pharmaceutical chemists and thirty-two chemists and druggists; or (as our friend puts it) seventeen old chemists and druggists and fifteen druggists and grocers, who have commenced business since the passing of the Irish Pharmacy Act, 1875, but who were at the passing of the Act (mark you, without exception) either assistants or apprentices to the old chemists and druggists, and for whom, according to the actions of the Irish Pharmacy Council, no provision has yet been made.

I might mention, for the information of your readers outside Ireland, that in Ireland most pharmaceutical chemists and chemists and druggists combine a fair share of the grocery business along with their other calling.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

AN OLD CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. (34/30.)

The Trading Tendencies of the Pharmaceutical Council.

SIR,—It would be impossible for anyone to read the reports of the proceedings and discussions at the council table of the Society without feeling convinced that its members desire real good; but in endeavouring to promote this object Mr. Symes has, by his resolution on the teaching of pharmacy, brought us again face to face with the inevitable two points, "progression and retrogression."

It is absolutely necessary that the motto of the Council should be "Forward!" but the resolution referred to, unless considerably modified, would tend to the further development at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., of pharmacy as a *trade*, and lead in the end to the disintegration of its members; therefore I say it is a retrogressive movement.

When this resolution was introduced by Mr. Symes, some two years ago, Mr. John Williams was a member of the Council, and, if my memory serves me correctly, he struck the keynote of advancement when he said he desired to support pharmacy as a *science*, for I am persuaded that as a science it will in the end carry its promoters on to freedom, arm in arm with chemistry as a profession distinct from the medical qualification.

In this, therefore, the transition state of pharmacy it is well for us to watch the changes and doings in connection with the medical curriculum; then we have only to read over the able address delivered at the opening of the session by Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., to find that the medical profession has thrown out a most important allied science from the examination of general practitioners.

Dr. Duckworth says:—"I may here express my regret that botany is now ejected from the curriculum of medical students who do not aspire to university degrees;" and I would venture to suggest that pharmaceutical students should make themselves more than ever proficient in this branch, which to us is so closely connected with the study of *materia medica*, so that when the time comes that the compounding and dispensing of medicines is handed over bodily to pharmacists in country towns as well as in London, medical practitioners may find that the cultivation of friendly relations with well-educated men in this branch of our work is to them as well as to the public a great gain.

Shall I not call this "progression"?

32 Bettridge Road, Hurlingham Park,

Fulham, S.W., Oct. 22, 1887.

A. W. POSTANS.

Physiological Action of Colchicum.

SIR,—My attention has been recently called to a paragraph in your journal of October 15, *appropos* Dr. J. M. MacLagan on my investigation at the Physiological Laboratory, Brussels. As Dr. MacLagan admits "that forty years ago he published an essay on the therapeutic and botanic action of the same drug," he seems, however, to ignore the fact that mine is *vice versa*: "On the Kidneys of the Gouty and Rheumatic." And more in especial at the present date, when physiological researches are now more developed, and science, more tangible in all their various branches, and equally so, that as the time when Elijah was fed by ravens is passed, Dr. MacLagan, with patience, I hope, will shortly have the pleasure of reading my same investigations on the same subject, which I am still following, after the past methods of Chelius, of Heidelberg, Becquerel, Millon, Ranke, Latheran, Christison, &c., will prove conclusively that forty years ago Dr. MacLagan must have *a priori* followed their principia. A more tangible research, however, of Ansell, L. Beale, B. Sanderson, Franz Simon, Senator of Berlin, and many others, will prove shortly an aptly-expressed passage from Lord Bacon, to which I will compare Dr. MacLagan's communications, that the lecturer must not be the ant, collecting all things indiscriminately from all quarters as provender for his discourses; nor the spider, seeking no materials abroad, but spinning his web of speculative doctrine from within himself; but rather the bee, extracting crude honey from various flowers, storing it up in the recesses of his brain, and submitting it to the operation of his internal faculties, until it be matured and ready for use.

I am, sir, obediently yours,
C. S. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch. B.Sc.

21 Woburn Place, Russell Square, W.C., Nov. 1.

[We confess ourselves unable to follow the thread of Dr. Taylor's argument as developed in this letter.]

Mr. Christy's "Rearing Mothers."

SIR,—I notice that in your issue of October 29 you allude to my recent application for a "patent" for improvements in "rearing mothers," and your remarks thereon are, to say the least, somewhat ambiguous.

Lest any of your readers should get a wrong impression from the term "rearing mother," I hasten to assure them that it is not so much with young humanity that my invention has to do, and that, although improvements might be effected in some of the methods now adopted in the rearing of "the generations yet unborn," I leave those more in authority on this particular subject to undertake the work.

For many years my name has been associated with every progressive step in the matters of hatching and rearing poultry by artificial means, always with the great end in view of keeping in our own hands the money now paid to foreigners for the major portion of our eggs and poultry as articles of food.

At no other time in this country's history has there been a more suitable moment than the present in which to urge upon our people the absolute necessity of their making the utmost of the resources within reach. The entire agricultural interest is a dead letter, and general trade prospects promise no amelioration from their present disheartening condition; therefore I maintain that for every pound we can rescue from the clutches of the foreigner we gain in reality two for ourselves. To encourage and simplify the production of our poultry, &c., at home, I have for a long time endeavoured to produce a perfect incubator, one in which, with every other known advantage combined, I should have entire control of the heat supply both in regard to moisture and temperature in the hatching-chamber.

In the hatching-chamber of my new machine I place a delicately adjusted metal thermostat, which will at any desired degree of temperature diminish the supply of heat, and having thereby cooled the chambers will turn the heat on again, and so forth *ad infinitum*. This thermostat can be set at any desired point or points between, say, 90° and 300°, and is absolutely unbreakable under the influence of heat. It is worked in conjunction with an electric current, and will control the temperature of rooms, furnaces, &c., at a cost of 5s. worth of battery power per annum.

For testing the heat at which liquids boil, and for many purposes in which the use of glass thermometers is prevented on account of their liability to fracture, the metal thermometer or thermostat is likely to be in great demand, and among electricians it is spoken of favourably for signalling, &c.

As the great difficulty hitherto has been to get the chickens, &c., hatched and reared at the proper time to secure remunerative prices, I may now, after twelve years of hard fighting, claim to have facilitated the production of these very necessary articles of our food supply.

Yours faithfully,
THOS. CHRISTY.

LEGAL QUERIES.

189/21. *Inquirer* (Watford) puts the following question:—"Can anyone monopolise the use of saccharin in the sweetening of coated pills by patenting a process? Would a patent thus applied for hold force if the case were tested?" The law exists for the protection of innovators and inventors, and in the case mentioned by "Inquirer," a patent having been applied for and granted for the application of saccharin to the coating of pills, no one without proper authority may use saccharin for that purpose. When the patent expires, however, there is nothing to prevent anyone coating pills as described in the specification. That is how patents apply to the general good of the community, and, probably, to the detriment of the patentee. We do not see any sufficient ground for questioning the validity of the patent, seeing that there is no evidence to show that saccharin was in common use for coating pills before the patent was applied for.

71/185. *J. A.* asks, "Is a non-qualified man liable to prosecution for selling red lead labelled 'red precipitate' when asked for red precipitate powder?" Red lead is not a poison under the Pharmacy Act, so that a non-qualified seller would not be liable under the Act however he labelled the article. But non-qualified or qualified, anyone would be liable under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act if he sold red lead for red precipitate.

24/188. *Apprentice* has been apprenticed for two and a half years out of the term of four for which he was bound, and thinks it time he should "have a rise in position." He would like to have our opinion whether he is bound to keep on cleaning windows, sweeping the shop, and so on. We cannot tell whether the master is doing his duty by the apprentice; the latter certainly ought not to be kept exclusively to porter's work. At the same time the general public have a little interest in the matter, and it might be hard on some customers if the compounding of medicines were entrusted too early to apprentices. The spelling and general style of our correspondent are much below what they ought to be, and in these respects, and no doubt in many others, he might easily improve himself. He is surrounded by the business which he has to learn, and it is almost entirely in his own choice whether he learns that business or not. Let him miss no opportunity of fitting himself for a better position, and the time will soon come when he can take it.

56/188. *Arbeitsam*.—A registered chemist and druggist may legally describe himself as an analyst, analytical chemist or consulting chemist.

56/189. *F. Cowdery*.—An apothecary or any qualified medical man may sell or dispense poisons, but he is under the same regulations in regard to them as a chemist and druggist. He has not the right, however, to call himself a "chemist and druggist."

60/189. *H. Dring*.—Your "grievance" does not exist. Candidates presenting themselves for any of the pharmaceutical examinations and failing to pass may try again within a year at reduced fees.

28/190. *Ch. mist* (Bradford).—Your question is not comprehensible.

10/188. *W. J. II.*—We should not be justified in giving publicity to accusations which do not come before the courts.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

Capping-leather.

188/62. "I have just finished capping some perfumes," writes *Grateful*, "but the result is not at all satisfactory. Though I soaked the skin in lime-water and two or three preparations of chlorine, yet I have failed to produce the beautifully white colour. Can you reveal the secret?"

The Apothecaries' Hall Examinations.

Junior (187/63) endorses "A. S. A.'s" remarks regarding the courtesy and consideration shown to candidates, contrasting favourably with that met with on his appearance at the Square; but he wishes to know if the writer is serious in claiming the mystical letters A.S.A., never having used it himself or met with it after a name during ten years' experience in the trade.

186/28.—*Assistant* (Stirling).—The ingredients of the prescription are all real. *Turnera aphrodisiaca* is a well-known remedy for impotency, under the name of damiana. *Yerba santa buena* is the name of a Californian plant belonging to the natural order Labiatae. It is allied to ordinary hyssop. *Solanum jerubeba* is a Brazilian plant, which is reputed to be valuable in affections of the liver, bladder, &c. The last-named, *Manzanita leaves*, is the product of *Arctostaphylos glauca*, a Californian shrub, the drug resembling uva ursi in its action.

185/55. *T. T. W.*—You will find numerous formulæ for **Writing Ink** in the last and current volumes. The following formula is for a good serviceable ink for ordinary use:—

Best Aleppo galls	..	..	..	4 oz.
Cloves	..	..	..	2 drachms
Common sulphate of iron	..	..	..	1½ oz.
Gum arabic	..	..	..	1 "
Sugar	..	..	..	½ "
Rain water	..	..	..	2 pints

Bruise the galls and cloves and macerate in the water for a fortnight; then add the sugar and gum, both bruised, and shake well; finally, add the copperas, and digest for at least ten days, but longer if possible, shaking once a day. Allow to settle, and decant the clear fluid.

186/7. *J. W. II.*—The **Ginger-beer Plant** which you send must not be confused with such highly-organised things as a fern or a rose tree. "Plant" is merely a familiar name applied to it. It closely resembles, and is probably identical with, the "vinegar plant," which possesses the peculiar property of forming cellulose when cultivated in the ordinary cultivation-media for bacteria, and there forms round the organism the transparent jelly-like membrane noticeable in your specimen. On this account the "plant" has been named *Bacterium zylinum* by Mr. A. J. Brown, who is its discoverer. The ordinary ferment *Bacterium* (or *Mycoderma*) *acti* also exists in the "Ginger-beer Plant," and probably also others.

186/24. *Enquirer* (Lincoln).—"Spt. æther. nit. .900" is quite a nondescript preparation, which does not deserve to be named either with the Pharmacopœial article or with the .850 sweet spirits of nitre. Some conscientious makers who wish to sell a preparation wholly distilled make it by distilling a mixture of nitric acid, rectified spirit, and water; but what is generally sold is simply a mixture of .850 sweet spirit of nitre and water. If this article is sold as "sweet spirit of nitre," the seller is liable to prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and would probably be con-

victed, for it has been decided in the law courts that "sweet spirit of nitre" is the .850 article. Of course the .900 spirit is chiefly remarkable for the fact that it contains no nitrous ether, or at the most a mere trace of it.

186/19. *Subscriber* (Cressington).—You will find "Heder's" description of "A Chemical Entertainment" in our issue for April 23, 1887, p. 512. We have given a recipe for cement within the past month. "A Subscriber" has not been successful with "Heder's" ink for writing on tin, and would like further particulars.

184/33. *W. L.*—The condition of pharmacy in the Western States of North America is at present much similar to what it is here—viz., greatly reduced by excessive competition, an overplus of "specialities," and agitation about the drink question, the majority of chemists there retailing spirits. You will have a good many things to learn if you go there, for American pharmacy differs materially from British, and you would have to be content to act as a learner for some time at a salary of about \$7.50 per week. Assistants' wages range from that to \$15, but first-class men command much higher salaries, as in this country. Hours and duties are much the same as here. The Irish diploma would be useful, but you would have to formally undergo examination and registration, with the concomitant fees.

185/35. *Hospital.*—We are informed that **Anhydrous Methylated Ether** is used anæsthetically in some hospitals, and is preferred to the pure ethylic ether. This is probably owing to the fact that methylic ether ($2\text{CH}_3\text{O}$) is a better anæsthetic than ethylic ether ($2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}$). Many years ago Dr. B. W. Richardson proved it to be so, but as it is a gas he recommended it to be given in combination with ethylic ether—the compound used being called methyl-ethylic ether.

185/22. *Pawine.*—Your questions are so trivial that it requires a stretch of the imagination to put them down as of pharmaceutical interest. You should get a few useful volumes, such as Squire's "Companion" and Waring's "Therapeutics," to consult when anything of a medical or posological nature occurs which you cannot cope with.

181/31. *J. R. II.*—Try Southall's mosquito cones for the earwigs in bedrooms.

184/21. *Attraction.*—Please send your label to the Messrs. Kay, and ask their opinion of it. We should be glad to know the result. If you take out part of the sugar from the sarsaparilla syrup add a little rectified spirit. Consult Somerset House on the methylated spirit question. If the "pimple lotion" smarts in cases of acne dilute it with warm water before using. Asthma remedies which are used by burning are not liable to stamp duty.

184/31. *Erica.*—**Jesuit's Drops.**—There are various formulæ for this preparation, e.g., the old Dublin Pharmacopœia tr. benzoini co. was given for it. The following are typical formulæ:—(1) Guaiacum, ʒvij.; bals. Peruv., ʒiv.; sarsaparilla, ʒv.; rectified spirit, Oij. Digest for 14 days and filter. (2) Copaiba, ʒj.; guaiacum, ʒij.; oil of sassafras, ʒj.; salt of tartar, ʒss.; rectified spirit, ʒv. Digest for a week and filter.

184/61. *J. T. H.*—See note on green colouring for tinctures in last volume, page 581. There is no innoxious colouring which will stand exposure to light.

183/39. *II. S.*—There is no effective way for removing the taste and smell of cocoa-nut oil.

184/6. *Chemist.*—You can make soluble essence of cayenne by the alum process, suitably modified, which a

correspondent described early in September. We gave a formula for butter colouring recently. Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis are the firm which you refer to.

185/14. *W. Banbury*.—Baking Powder.—Tartaric acid, 8 oz.; bicarbonate of soda, 10 oz.; rice flower, 12 oz. All to be dried before mixing. Composition powder was given last week.

183/31. *C. E. L.*—The deposit formed when tincture of opium is diluted with water is principally resinous and waxy matter. Tinctures, such as guaiacum and benzoin, which filter slowly should be allowed to stand for a day or two, decant the clear portion, and filter the rest through paper or glass-wool. Tannin has the effect of making oxymel of squills perfectly bright.

185/32. *Rusticus*.—Rosemary and Cantharidin Hair-wash.—Try the following formula:—

Acet. cantharidis	3ss.
Acid. acetic.	3j.
Aq. melis	3j.
Spt. rosmarini	3ij.
Aq. ad	3xij.

7 Add 2 drachms of French chalk to the mixture, shake occasionally during the day, and filter.

This is a hair-wash for general use. Washes containing cantharidin, such as linimentum crinale, are too strong for liberal application.

183/21. *J. B.*—Cattle Spice.—The following formula gives an excellent condiment, a teaspoonful of which should be given in a bran mash once a week, or oftener:—

Ground linseed cake	14 lbs.
" gentian	1 lb.
" liquorice	1 "
" fenugreek	3 "
" nitre	1 1/2 "
" ginger (African)	1 1/2 "
" anise	6 oz.
" coriander	6 "
" sulphur	6 "
" cinchona	4 "

7 Mix all the ingredients except the linseed meal, then incorporate it gradually.

25/187. *Omnia*.—We have no knowledge of the advertiser named, and therefore do not feel justified in describing him as a quack. But the circular you send certainly suggests that idea. The newspaper extract you refer to is no doubt genuine, but is none the better on that account.

15/189. *J. G.*—Your verses are not metrical.

13/189. *H. E. C.*—The Postmaster-General and his minions are responsible for the condition of which you complain.

184/59. *Coin*.—To Detect Spurious Coins.—A sovereign should weigh two drachms; coiners seldom hit the exact weight—in fact, their profit would go if they did. In the case of all "gold" articles scratch a little of the surface and apply nitric acid; gold is unaffected by it. For silver, file off a little, wet the surface, and rub with lunar caustic; if spurious a black stain is formed. These tests are generally sufficient.

188/47. *A. M.*—Laville's Gout Liquor, last volume, page 431; Pills, present volume, page 110.

188/63. *Boringer*.—Essence of Coffee and Chicory.—Ground coffee, 4 parts; ground chicory, 2 parts; burnt sugar, 1 part. Exhaust the coffee and chicory by referco-

lation, so that their soluble constituents are contained in 4 parts of percolate; in this dissolve 1 1/2 part of sugar, and add the burnt sugar. You may treat the coffee and chicory with water until exhausted, and evaporate to the bulk stated; but the aroma of the essence is not so fine in that case.

183/45. *Diary*.—The substance, as far as can be judged, is stramonium.

187/29. *Izon*.—Thriving Powder for Pigs.—Black antimony, 1 lb.; powdered gentian and powdered liquorice, of each 8 oz.; powdered ginger and sulphate of iron, of each 4 oz. Mix. Dose: a tablespoonful.

187/65. *G. (Paris)*.—We are not familiar with the "De Geiche" preparation. We have given formulæ for leather varnishes recently (we presume that is what you require), and one for boot-top liquid last week.

187/66. *L. B. (Dieppe)*.—See a formula for antipyrin mixture in our issue for September 10, page 312. We do not know any method to prevent solutions of salicylate of soda becoming dark coloured when kept.

188/3. *J. Ironsides*.—Several formulæ for cough mixtures without opium have been given in this volume and the last.

188/2. *Enquirer (Bootle)*.—We do not know any book specially devoted to the maximum doses of medicines. The subject is a difficult one to treat, for, as Dr. Murrell says, "It is no easy matter to say positively what is the fatal dose of any particular poison. . . . In many of the recorded cases, the exact quantity taken is not known, whilst in others the strength of the preparation is not given." Ringer's "Therapeutics" is a useful book for the chemist to have. In it you will find mentioned the doses which have been used in special cases. A table of maximum doses is given in the German Pharmacopœia, which will assist you.

187/69. *Blackburn*.—A formula for Liquor Santal Flav. Co. was given in our issue for September 11, 1886, page 359, and has been repeated in this volume.

188/43. *E. P.*—"The enclosed substance" found in a pond has been lost in transmission. If it cannot be turned to any pharmaceutic use do not send it.

Liq. Ferri Albuminat.—*J. P. (Palermo)* writes:—"Can you or any of your readers reply to this demand? Here is daily prescribed as liquor of *ferri albuminat*, prepared in Germany by Drees. How is it made? It is a fact that it contains some spirit, and I know that the spirits precipitate the albumen. How do you explain this?" Dissolve 10 parts of egg albumen in 100 parts of distilled water, and to this solution, which should be clear, add 2 1/2 parts of solution of perchloride of iron (s.g. 1.480) diluted with 10 times its volume of water. Warm and shake the mixture until solution is effected, then add to it 40 parts of proof spirit, or enough to make 200 parts of the solution of albuminated iron. The explanation is that the combination of albumen with iron has been found to alter the characters of the albumen completely, so that it dialyses, is non-congealable on heating, is not precipitated by alcohol, and generally behaves in a way that albumen should not do. The ferrated albumen is variable in composition, but the albumen is seldom below a proportion of 90 per cent., the rest being ferric chloride. It is for these reasons that it is possible to prepare liq. ferri albuminat. with spirit.

58/188. *W.*—The report referred to appears in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, October 1, page 423.